

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW172
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Name of Service:	Charlesland Park Montessori
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Address of Service:	184 Charlesland Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A63 FX30
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rita Byrne
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/04/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	32	PM	31
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	Mona Condon
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

This service is located in a residential area in Greystones village, County Wicklow. The service is registered to provide a full day care, part time and sessional service for pre-school children between 1-6 years of age. The service operates between the hours of 07:30 and 18:30 on a Monday to Friday basis. The children are cared for across four pre-school rooms depending on their age and stage of development. The baby and toddler rooms are located on the ground floor, and the Pre-Montessori and Montessori rooms are located on the first floor. Sanitary areas are available on both floors and a kitchen is located on the ground floor. An outdoor area is at the rear of the premises.

Staffing

A total of nine adults are employed which includes the manager. On the day of inspection eight adults provided direct care to pre-school children. The manager was available to give assistance in the rooms as needed. The registered provider works in an administrative role and is not present in the crèche on a daily basis.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was *unannounced* and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector) wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*

(d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.
- (2) Seven new staff were employed since the last inspection. These seven staff files were reviewed.
- (a)(b) There were two written and validated references available for seven staff members.
- (c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for seven new staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for seven staff members who had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4)
- All staff members who were involved in the direct care of children had at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children.

(2) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection. There were eight adults providing direct care to thirty-two pre-school children who were cared for in four care rooms. The manager was present to provide assistance when needed.

(8)(a) There were at least 2 adults on the premises during the inspection and the staff roster indicated that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the information listed above (1)(h) - (k) in relation to the service.

(3) A record listed above (1)(h) - (k) were available for inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

The inspector observed that staff were attentive to the personal care of the children. The children's nappies were changed routinely and if needed in between. Bibs were provided when eating to protect their clothes from becoming soiled or wet. Their noses, hands and faces were cleaned when needed. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children.

Staff sat with the children when eating. They provided them with help when needed whilst supporting their independence. Drinks of water were offered regularly and were always available. Children attending the Baby room had individual routines for food and sleep which mirrored their home routines.

The children attending the Baby room were placed to sleep according to their individual routine or when they displayed signs of tiredness. Children attending the other rooms who required sleep slept on sleep mats in their rooms at a designated time. The atmosphere in the rooms while children were sleeping was calm. Children's outer clothing was removed, and blankets were provided. Staff provided the children with reassurance as they were settling to sleep, talking to them gently and sitting next to them. The children who had soothers were offered these.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed them by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. The staff comforted the children when they became upset - holding them and talking to them in soft tones.

All children attending the creche spent time in the outdoor area during the day. Staff were observed playing games with them and supervised them while using the toys and equipment provided in the outdoor area. Minor incidences between children were handled well by staff using distraction and re-direction to resolve any issues

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.
- All cleaning agents were kept out of reach of children.
- Individual care plans were in place for children with specific medical needs where required.

Infection Control:

- Children were encouraged to wash their hands regularly including before lunch, after using the toilet and after outdoor play. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed in accordance with the service's infection control policies and procedures.
- Each child's soother was stored in individual containers and were sterilised daily.
- Cleaning schedules were maintained in each care room and the environment was clean.

Administration of Medication:

- No child received medication during the inspection. The staff members were knowledgeable of the procedure to be used if needed and documentation was reviewed which demonstrated that the procedure was adhered to.
- Written parental consent was available should temperature reducing medication be required to be administered to a child.
- All medication was stored in a safe place and was clearly labelled for each individual child.

Safe Sleep:

- On the day of inspection, a sleep log was maintained every 10 minutes by staff detailing the physical checks carried out on sleeping children under 2 years of age.
- The temperature of the sleep room and the care rooms where children slept was in the acceptable range.

Fire Safety:

- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed. The procedure for evacuation was on display in each room.
- Records were available of monthly fire drills carried out in the service.
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Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. There was no cover on the large sand-play area which was available in the outdoor covered area. This posed an infection control risk as this area could be accessed by small animals when not in use.

2. There was over handling of two bins in the service which posed a risk of cross-infection as follows:

- In the large room on the first floor a bin with a "flap" opening was in use.
- In the Toddler room the pedal bin was not working.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. A tarpaulin cover has been put on the sand pit when not in use. Staff have been advised to cover the sandpit when not in use.
2. The two bins have been replaced with new pedal-bins. All bins will be replaced as necessary.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Photo of covered sand area.

Copy of invoice order for four pedal bins.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 23.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

- (a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*
- (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

Compliance Information

(1) Adults trained in First Aid Response were present and immediately available to the pre-school children.

(2)

(a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service.