

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WW248
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Mother Goose Montessori
-------------------------	-------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Wolfe Tone District Youth Club, Community Centre, Temple Sport Field, Bray, Co. Wicklow
----------------------------	--

<b>Eircode:</b>	A98 AY83
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sinead Stalton
-------------------------------------	----------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	29/09/2025
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	30	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Level 7, Brunel building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham Dublin 8
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	R Phillips
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
---------------------------------	-----

### Description of service

This privately run Early years' service operates from two rooms within a community centre in Bray county Wicklow. There is a Montessori room downstairs on the ground floor and a Montessori room upstairs on the first floor.

The sessional service runs from 09:15-12:15 downstairs and 09:30-12:30 upstairs, for 38 weeks of the year. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme There is an enclosed outdoor play area in front of the premises. The children also do activities in the large hall, which is available to them.

### Staffing

The service employs seven adults including the registered provider, who manages the service and works directly with the children. Another adult comes once per week for a music class with the children and there is a volunteer worker.

### 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, safety, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

- 9 (1)(2)(4) Management and recruitment,
- 11(1)(3) Staffing levels,

15(1)(a)-(i), (3)(c) Records of a preschool child,  
19 (1)(b) Health Welfare and Development of the child,  
23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,  
25 (1)(2)(a)(b) First Aid, and  
26 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c) (4) Fire Safety measures.  
29 (e) Premises

On inspection, non-compliances which posed a risk were identified under regulation 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Records of a preschool child.

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, deputy 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) The registered provider is the designated person in charge and has a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The deputy person in charge was present on the inspector's arrival and the person in charge arrived after that and remained throughout the inspection and attended the closing meeting at the end.
- (c) It was evident that there was a clear management structure in the service.

All staff files were reviewed, seven in total.

(2)(a)(b) The following references were made available in respect of the seven staff files:

fourteen written validated references, twelve from previous employers, two from reputable sources.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all seven staff, one music teacher and one volunteer. However, the Garda vetting records demonstrated that the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in

the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for one adult, who was not present on the day of inspection. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting certification was available for one member of staff who resided outside of the Irish jurisdiction for six months or more as an adult as required.

(4) Seven staff members including the manager held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at least level 5, or equivalent qualification.

### 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.*

*(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection, the inspector observed that there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the preschool children.

(3) There were 30 children being cared for by six adults, with the person in charge also working directly with the children.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

*(a) the name and date of birth of the child;*

*(b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*

*(c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*

*(d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*

*(e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*

*(f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*

*(g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*

*(h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*

*(i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

*(c) an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 10 registration records for children were reviewed. The information required was documented as outlined below:

(a) The name and date of birth of each child.

(b) The date when each child first attended the service.

(c) A section was available for recording the date when the child ceases attending.

(d) The name, address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted.

(e) Names and contact details of other adults authorised to collect the child.

(f) Medical information, allergies, dairy preferences, additional needs, and other information specific to the child.

(g) The name and telephone number of the child's medical practitioner.

(h) Immunisation details.

(i) Signed parental consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

(3)(c) The above records were made readily 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

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed on the day of the inspection.

The adults spoke to the children kindly, addressing them by name, listening to them and responding to their requests and needs.

Staff communication indicated they knew the children and their families well.

Transitions were well managed between activities with the staff letting the children know what was going to happen next.

The children brought a packed lunch from home and ate it sitting at low level tables and chairs. The staff sat with the children and engaged in conversation with them. Staff said if a child forgot their lunch, they could provide same. The children's drinks were always available to them.

The staff supported the children in the upstairs Montessori room to go downstairs to use the sanitary facilities. Staff encouraged independence with toileting and managing their belongings, offering praise for their achievements.

The children attended a music class and played outside in the outdoor area.

### 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

The following are examples of the measures undertaken by the registered provider and staff members to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children attending the service:

#### General Safety:

The entrance and exits were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the premises unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.

The children were supervised at all times including mealtimes and during transition from the care rooms to the sanitary areas and outdoor area.

The toys and equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

Cleaning agents were appropriately stored in locked cupboards and on high level shelving in rooms the children didn't have access to.

Children did not have access to the kitchen or storage rooms.

Radiators in the upstairs classroom were covered to prevent a risk of scalds.

### **Infection Control:**

Staff and children were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times, before meals and after assisting children to blow their nose or after using the toilet.

There was liquid soap, paper towels and warm water that did not exceed 43°C available for hand washing to prevent the spread of infection.

### **Administration of Medication:**

Medicines were stored out of reach of children in their original packaging as required.

Staff demonstrated an understanding of the appropriate measures to be taken to safeguard children if medicine administration was required.

### **Fire Safety:**

Fire exits were unobstructed and signposted throughout the building.

Staff outlined the procedure for fire drills and identified the assembly point.

Fire procedures notices were displayed in prominent positions throughout the building.

### **Outing:**

The registered provider stated that the service does not bring the children on outings.

## Non-Compliance Information

### **General Safety:**

1. Garda vetting was available for all staff members. However, one staff member's vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years contravening the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### **Corrective & Preventive Action**

#### **General Safety:**

The registered provider has re applied for garda vetting of the staff member on 17 October 2025.

A schedule of staff vetting dates, including the dates of issue and expiry, has been established. This will be reviewed before the start of each year.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Evidence of re application for garda vetting was submitted as evidence of above actions taken.

### Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted has been reviewed, by the early years inspectorate and deemed to address the non-compliance.

## 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)  
Three people with in-date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificates were present throughout the inspection. Discussion with the registered provider highlighted that there is always someone with FAR training available to the children in the service.

(2)  
(a) (b) A first aid box was safely stored in a conspicuous location in the service.  
This was fully stocked.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*

- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
- (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*
  - (c) an authorised person.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

### Compliance Information

- (1)
  - (a) A written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 24. September.2025.
  - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced in September 2025. There was a record to show maintenance of the fire alarm and detection system had taken place on 28 January 2025.
- (2)
- (c) The records were made available for inspection.
- (4)
 

The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations throughout the service.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

### Compliance Information

- (e) There were boys and girl's sanitary facilities downstairs in the premises. There were two suitable toilet cubicles with an adult height sink with a step, and child height sink in the girl's sanitary area. There were another three suitable toilet cubicles and three more sinks, two larger with steps and one child size sink in the boy's sanitary facilities. These sanitary areas have been upgraded since the last inspection on 26. October 2022.