

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX023
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Carolines Little Treasures Montessori School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Courtown Road, Gorey, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y25 FK54
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Caroline Gormely
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	29/05/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	11	PM	NA
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank Wexford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Ryan
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector

<b>Authority to Inspect</b>
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>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Caroline's Little Treasures Montessori School is a privately operated preschool service which opened in 1998. It is located outside Gorey Town. It offers a play based and Montessori programme to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates a sessional service from 9.30am to 12.30pm five mornings per week. The service is located beside the registered provider's home. It consists of one playroom, an entrance lobby and toilets. An outdoor garden and play area are located to the side of the premises which is separate from the providers home and for the sole use of the preschool children.

### Staffing

There are two staff working with the children. The registered provider works directly with the children and is the designated person in charge daily on the premises. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5 above qualifications in Childcare and Montessori Education.

### 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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and Recruitment,

Regulation 11 (1)(2) Staffing levels,

Regulation 21 Equipment and materials,  
Regulation 22 Food and drink,  
Regulation 25 First aid,  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety,  
Regulation 28 Insurance and  
Regulation 30 Minimum space requirements.

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, 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

(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)

On the day of the inspection the registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service. The second staff member is the deputy designated person in charge.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for the two employees kept in each staff member's file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for the two staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every three years.

- (d)  
Police vetting disclosures were not required as none of the staff had lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.
- (4)  
Certificates of qualifications for both staff members working directly with the preschool children were available on file.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)(2)  
Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with children ensuring that the correct adult to child ratios were maintained at all times. During the morning there were 11 children being directly cared for by 2 staff.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

- A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

### Compliance Information

The service consisted of one large playroom which was very well equipped with a range of toys, materials and furniture suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending the service. There were child sized tables and chairs for tabletop activities such as Montessori work, playdough, puzzles and eating at snack time. At one end of the room was a large well stocked reading area and a large mat where children could sit. The room had a number of defined interest areas which were appropriately resourced, including the home corner, art and craft materials, a dolls house, small world materials, and dress up. There were low level open shelves around the room where Montessori work, jigsaws/puzzles and manipulative play toys were easily accessible to the children.

The room was spacious enough to allow children space to practice dancing for their graduation. The outdoor area was fully enclosed to the side of the playroom. It had a gravel surface which the children enjoyed digging in. There was a wash hand basin with running water which was used for handwashing and water play. The children had a variety of toys and equipment outside including a large slide, ride on toys, a playhouse, digging areas, sand, water play and a kitchen.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

### Compliance Information

The service encouraged healthy eating and the parents provided the foods and snacks eaten by the children. Children brought their own bottles of water that were available to them throughout the morning on a shelf where they could easily access them when they wanted a drink. A fridge was available for the storage of perishable foods. Foods eaten on the day of inspection included: wraps, sandwiches, yogurt, cheese, chopped vegetables and fruit (bananas, strawberries, apples, grapes, peppers, cucumber and raisins.) Staff sat with the children during snack time which was eaten in the playroom. There was lots of chatting, sharing stories and the children talked about going to big school. The children all washed their hands before eating.

### 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)  
There were staff trained in FAR and first aid for children available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)  
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

### 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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*

*(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)  
Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service. The last recorded fire drill was carried out on the 1 May 2024.

(1)(b)  
A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm were serviced in December 2023 and February 2024.

(4)  
There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that insurance was in place.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

*(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*

*(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)  
There was adequate floor space available to the children to play and move freely in the room.

(3)  
The room was measured on inspection. The room measured 55 square metres, which was well above the minimum requirement of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space per child attending the service.