

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX042
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Eager Beavers Montessori @Firefly
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Clone East, Monamolin, Gorey, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y25 FX31
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Tara Finn
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	15/11/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM	4
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Wexford.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry
<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>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This part time service is located in a rural setting near the village of Monamolin Co Wexford. There is a new registered provider in place since September 2024. The service provides a sessional and a part time service to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service consists of a large preschool room, a kitchenette, an office, and extensive outdoor play areas which have been developed for the play and enjoyment of the children attending the service.

### Staffing

There are five staff employed in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. All staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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 the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 15 Record of preschool child,  
Regulation 17 Information for parents,  
Regulation 20 Facilities for rest and play,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child,  
Regulation 25 First aid,  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety,  
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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*

*(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)

There was a designated person in charge who remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider arrived later on the morning of the inspection and was also available to facilitate the inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 5 staff employed in the service. There were 10 written references available on file for staff working in the service.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all 5 staff members. The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.

(d)  
Police vetting was not required as no staff had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)  
There were qualifications on file for all 5 staff working directly with the preschool children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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)(2)

There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children on both days of the inspection.

At 10.30 am

There were 14 children aged from 2 to 6 years in the care of 2 staff.

At 1.00 pm

There were 4 children aged from 2 to 6 years in the care of 2 staff.

The registered provider arrived later on the morning of the inspection and was available to assist in the room if required.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

There was a registration form available in respect of each child enrolled in the service. A sample of 10 forms completed by the parents were reviewed as part of the inspection process and were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 17 – Information for parents

*A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).*

#### Compliance Information

There was an information handbook for parents who were proposing to enrol their child in the service. The service provided parents with information as required under regulation 17. The information booklet provided for parents contained an outline of the curriculum, the hours of operation, contact details and the facilities available within the service. There was also information included on the day to day running of the service.

### 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

There was a supply of toys and equipment stored on easily accessible shelves in the room. Areas of interest were particularly well developed. There was a cosy corner with a supply of books and comfortable low sized couches for children to sit on. There was a dolls house supplied with small world furniture and dolls. Of particular note was the large cardboard box in the corner which had been painted by the children and staff. One child explained to the inspector that they were making the box for a bear “to hibernate in”.

Another child asked the inspector to be quiet as there was a pretend hedgehog sleeping in an area in the classroom. Staff who spoke to the inspector said they were exploring the theme of hibernation in the service as part of their curriculum planning.

The children had direct access to an outdoor area. The area to the side of the service contained a shed which had been developed as “a Doctors Station”. Staff had drawn a full-size outline of a human body. The children had put photographs of different internal organs on the body in the places where they imagined them to be. There were photographs of x rays and other hospital related play equipment. There were goal posts on the grassed area and small diggers set into to gravel that children could sit on and pretend to dig. There was a supply of ride on toys and a selection of tiles which children had drawn on with chalk. The playground to the rear of the service was suitably equipped with a Wendy house, a slide and a tunnel which children could crawl through.

### 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:

Access to the service was gained through the front door which was secure on arrival and remained secure for the duration of the inspection. The outdoor areas in the service were safe, suitable and secure.

### Infection Control

The service was clean with no obvious maintenance required. Staff were observed to be attentive attending to children's personal hygiene during the day. The staff were observed to be vigilant in supporting the children in washing their hands before meals, after using the toilet and after messy play. There was warm water to support hand washing, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and foot pedal operated bins provided in the service.

### 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 was a person trained in first aid responder course immediately 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 to the staff on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool service.

## 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)

There was a records of fire drills which had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was carried out in November 2024.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment was last serviced in January 2024 and smoke alarm were serviced in October 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

There was insurance in place to cover the number of children who were present on the day of inspection.