

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX051
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Giant Steps Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Charlotte Row, Gorey, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y25 T3Y6
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Gail Molloy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	13/03/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	19	PM	NA
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	C. Ryan
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Tusla Early Years Ely Hospital, Ferrybank Wexford
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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

Giant Steps is a privately owned preschool service in Gorey Co Wexford. The service offers a play based and Montessori curriculum to children aged between 2 years to 6 years and is registered for 22 children. The service operates Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 12:00. The preschool service is located in a room in the parish hall. The service consists of a large playroom, sanitary accommodation and an outdoor play area.

### Staffing

There were four staff working in the service including the registered provider who works directly with the children. All the staff working directly with the children in the service held the minimum Fetac level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and 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 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1),

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of child,

Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4) and  
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)

On the day of the inspection the manager was the designated person in charge of the service. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

The staff files for four staff working in the service were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

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

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all 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 3 years.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were not required as the registered provider had assessed that none of the staff had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

Certificates of qualifications at level five or equivalent for all 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service. In the morning there were 19 children in the care of three staff.  
Additionally, there were two students on placement in the service.

### 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-*

*(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service focusing on the areas of basic needs, supporting relationships and the physical and material environment on the day of inspection.

The service consisted of one large room which was well resourced to meet the needs of the ages of the children. Children were actively engaged in play during the morning. They enjoyed free play during the morning, including use of the indoor hall for physical activities and play.

After snack time, children were prompted in choosing what they wished to play with from the open shelves. The staff sat with them engaged in chat and play.

The staff prompted children to support them in transition between activities, and they tidied up together. Parents supplied the mid-morning snack which were stored in the fridge. The snack time was relaxed and unhurried in both rooms. The children took turns to be the class helper and handed out lunch boxes to their friends. Staff supervised the children with handwashing before eating and sat with them to help as needed.

A child who felt overwhelmed in the room was supported to regulate themselves by staff. The staff were observed to be familiar with the child's individual likes and needs helping the child to rejoin the play and activities when they felt calm.

Throughout the room the daily routine, family photos, birthday walls and pictures of amenities in the local community and town were displayed. The cosy corner consisted of mats and cushions, books and family photos. There was evidence of curriculum planning within the room including the current interests of the children. The home corner was spacious and well resourced.

The children had access to an enclosed outdoor play area to the side of the premises. The staff brought out toys and equipment to the area.

Parents were provided with information about their children's daily routine and activities while attending the service. This was displayed in the classroom learning journey and displayed at the entrance to the service. Parents came into the service to collect their children and spoke directly to the staff who cared for their individual children.

### 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 fire fighting 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)  
The last recorded fire drill was carried out on 28 February 2025.
- (1)(b)  
A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in January 2025.
- (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

The registered provider had a certificate of insurance for a sessional service for 22 children.