

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>22TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX094
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Nourrice Creche & Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Rivendell House, Clonard, Wexford, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y35 AE48
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Gillian Murphy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Dates of Inspection:</b>	19/09/2024
	20/09/2024

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<b>Day 1</b>	AM	62	PM	58
	<b>Day 2</b>		58		N/A

<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

Nourrice Creche and Montessori is a privately owned and operated preschool service. It is situated on the outskirts of Wexford Town. The service is registered to provide a full day care, sessional and part time service to children from 5 months to 6 years of age. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 67 children at any one time. The service is operated from a two-storey detached house with a carpark and enclosed play areas. The service has seven preschool rooms. Baba Land caters for children from 5 months to 1 year of age, Wobbler Wood caters for children from 1 to 2 years of age, The early years care and education room (ECCE) on the ground floor caters for children from 3 to 6 years of age.

There are a further four preschool rooms on the first floor. Discovery Drive, Wonder Creek, Toddle Lane and Activity City cater for children aged 2 to 3 years of age. There are an adequate number of toilets and nappy changing facilities in the service. There is one large, designated sleep room situated on the ground floor of the service for children who require cots to sleep in. There is an onsite kitchen where all meals and snacks are prepared daily for the children. There are three separate safe, suitable and secure outdoor areas available to the children attending the service.

### Staffing

There are 14 staff employed in the service including the registered provider. All staff working directly with the preschool children held a major 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 an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 10 Policies and procedures

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 15 Record of preschool child,

Regulation 17 Information for parents,

Regulation 20 Facilities for rest and play,

Regulation 22 Food and Drink,

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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
- (c) these Regulations.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge on day 1 and day 2 of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection on both days.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 14 staff employed in the service including the registered provider.

There were 26 written and validated references available on file for staff working in the service. There were two references available on file for the registered provider which did not require to be validated.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all 14 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 available on file for one staff member who 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 14 staff working directly with the preschool children. These staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

(7)

The registered provider had ensured that all employees were appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information. Staff who spoke to the inspector were clear in their understanding of the policies and procedures in place in the service. Staff who were recently employed in the service described a detailed induction process. Experienced staff were observed demonstrating safe practices in the service. For example, demonstrating how to safely bring small children down the stairs.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

There were policies and procedures in place in the service specified in Schedule 5 of these regulations. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the policy on the administration of medication and the policy on the management of accidents and incidents in the service.

## 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)

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

#### Day 1

At 10.30 am

There were 62 children in the care of 10 staff.

At 1.30 pm

There were 58 children in the care of 9 staff.

The registered provider was also available to assist in the preschool rooms when required.

#### Day 2.

At 10.00 am

There were 58 children in the care of 10 staff.

The registered provider was also available to assist in the preschool rooms when 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 handbook provided for parents provided 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: healthy eating, medication management, behaviour management, complaints, fire safety and first aid.

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

#### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

*(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

*(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

There were child sized tables and chairs suitable for tabletop activities provided in all rooms for older children. There was a nurturing chair for staff in the baby room and good quality high chairs for the babies to sit in while they were being fed. There was sufficient space for children and staff to move around and enjoy various activities and play. All rooms were planned with the ages and stages of the children taken in to account. Open shelving units allowed children to freely access what they wanted to choose to play with. The ECCE room was well organised and equipped for the older children attending the service. There was a large, carpeted area which provided a comfortable area in the afternoon for children to relax on. Comfortable blankets were provided for children to lie on while staff played gentle music for them to relax on after their busy morning of activities and outdoor play.

There was original artwork displayed in the room. For example, “the people in my home”. Children had been encouraged to draw the people who they lived with. There was another original artwork displayed which the children had completed. This was labelled “draw what you see in the mirror”. Children had completed “self-portraits”. Some more artwork was evident in the hall way for parents to take home at collection time. This consisted of cups with feathers and googly eyes the children had made in the previous days in the service. There was a supply of art materials in the room. There was a large colourful family wall with photos displayed of the children and their families.

In the wobbler room there was a variety of toys provided including books, jigsaws, small cars and plastic bricks. There were paintings of the children’s handprints on the wall. There were three outdoor play areas adjacent to the service. These spaces had been developed to provide a stimulating environment for the children. The play area accessed directly from the ECCE room consisted of a sheltered area with a wooden floor. There was an enclosed area which was in front of the wobbler room. The ground surface composed of soft material to cushion

the children when they fell. This area contained toys and equipment for the children to play with such as balls and ride on toys. There was also a large tennis court area accessible from the rear of the service.

(b)

There was one large sleep room situated just inside the front door of the service. There were 11 cots provided. The room was suitably shaded to provide a pleasant environment for the children to sleep and the staff to adequately observe the children as they slept. There was an adequate number of sleep beds provided for older children to sleep on if required. Sleep for the older children was provided in the preschool rooms on the first floor of the service. Children who did not want to sleep were looked after in a room upstairs which allowed the sleeping children to enjoy uninterrupted sleep. There were rest area provided in both preschool rooms consisting of cosy child sized couches.

### 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 promoted healthy eating and all meals and snacks were supplied and cooked on the premises by the chef. The dinner was served at mid-day and consisted of pork vegetables and mashed potatoes. Children were served second helpings when they requested more. The food provided was prepared and served to meet the stages of development of the children. For example, the food for younger children was a mashed/lumpy texture and the older children’s dinner was served whole.

The meals were served in the rooms with the staff helping children to wash their hands and set the tables. Water was available to drink. Staff were observed to encourage the children to drink more water to keep them hydrated. There was a reminder from the registered provider in the wobbler room to staff to ensure they gave the children something to drink every hour. On the afternoon of the inspection children were served toasted cheese sandwiches for their afternoon snack.

## 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. There were daily and weekly cleaning schedules maintained. The service had an infection control policy. Staff were seen to attend 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 across the service.

##### Safe Sleep

The service had one designated sleep room. Individual bed linen was available. Staff who spoke with the inspector, were aware of safe sleep practices. Staff who spoke to the inspector were knowledgeable in the importance of ensuring safe sleep guidelines were carried out for the sleeping children in their care. For example, they were knowledgeable on how often a sleeping child is physically checked, recording of the observations such as colour, position and breathing rate and temperature of the sleep room. The staff were observed to carry out and recorded physical sleep checks every 10 minutes as per the service policy on safe sleep. Older children who slept on sleep beds upstairs were supervised at all times while they slept.

## 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 were records of fire drills which had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was carried out in August 2024.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment was last serviced in March 2024 and smoke alarm were serviced July 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.