

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX122
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	The Guilletots Preschool (Montessori & Reggio)
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	The Pines, Newtown, Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y35 YF67
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Aude Bates
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	06/02/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM	NA
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Ryan
<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

The Guilletots Preschool is a privately operated preschool located on the outskirts of Kilmore Quay, Co Wexford. It offers a Montessori and Reggio Emilia inspired programme to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates a sessional service Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm and can accommodate up to 16 children. The service consists of a log cabin to the rear of the registered provider's home. There is a large playroom, entrance lobby, kitchenette and toilets. A large outdoor garden and play area is available to the rear of the provider's home.

### Staffing

There are a total of two staff working daily in the service. The registered provider is the designated person in charge daily and works directly with the children. There is a third staff member available for relief cover who is familiar with the service. All the staff working with children hold the minimum of level 5, and above qualifications in Montessori Education and Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).

### 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) (2),  
Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and development of the child,  
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety 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, 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)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service on the inspector's arrival. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

The files for all staff working in the service, including the students, were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for each of the 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 on file for the staff who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)  
There were certificates of qualification for the staff members working directly with the preschool children 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)  
During the inspection, there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.  
During the morning there were 2 staff caring for 13 children.  
A student was present on placement and was supernumerary.

### 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 on the day of inspection:

The children's needs were met in a warm caring responsive manner, as a result children were observed to be content in their environment. For example, one child who was out of sorts for a short period was comforted and reassured by staff.

On the day of inspection, children enjoyed the morning time outside. Children were given the freedom to decide whether they wanted to play outside, with three children choosing to remain in the classroom facilitated by staff who set up toys at the table for them.

Children were observed to eat their food in an unhurried manner after outdoor play. During snack time, staff sat with children chatting and assisting the children as required and encouraging social interaction. The staff supervised children with handwashing before eating.

The interactions were warm and positive between children and staff throughout the day. The staff were observed to speak to children in a kind and warm manner and were familiar with the individual personalities of the children. Staff managed toileting and nappy changing sensitively, with children changed as required. Children who were toilet trained used the toilet independently.

The service consisted of one playroom, which was bright, warm and spacious. The room was set up and resourced with Montessori materials, interest areas, toys and equipment. The playroom had a wide variety of play materials and well-developed interest areas, which were suitable for the age and stage of development of the children using them. There were materials and toys such as books, puzzles, small world, baskets and trays and a cosy inviting rest area. Low open shelves allowed children to access materials independently during free play.

Children's identity and belonging was fostered through the display of their works of art and their recent learning, birthday walls, local community photographs, daily routine and individual named hooks for their coats and bags. The outdoor area consisted of an enclosed natural and spacious garden to the rear of the premises. The area had a variety of surfaces such as concreted area for ride on toys and grass area. The children were enjoying playing on a swing tyre underneath the large tree in the garden. There was a playhouse, climbing frames, a mud kitchen and opportunities for messy with sand pits and digging areas. A covered area provided additional opportunities to the children for outdoor.

### 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 a first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service. There was evidence in the file that two staff working directly with children were trained in FAR.

(2)(a)(b)  
There was a suitably equipped first aid boxes stored in an easily accessible position on the premises which were 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 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)  
Fire drills were completed monthly. The last fire drill completed was recorded on the 17 January 2026.

(b)  
A record was maintained when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in December 2025.

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

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service had a valid certificate of insurance a sessional service for 16 children.