

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX139
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Wonderland Creche and Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Carriglea, Coolcotts, Wexford.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y35 PF22
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Orlagh Murphy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	30 January 2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	27	PM	16
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital Ferrybank Wexford
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Ryan
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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

Wonderland Creche and Montessori is a private owned early years service. The service provides full day, part-time and sessional care service to children aged 2 to 6 years. Additionally, the service offers a school aged service. The service operates from 8.15am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday. The service operates from a bungalow in a residential area in Wexford town. It consists of three playrooms, a kitchen, office, staff facilities and sanitary accommodation. A large outdoor garden and play area was available to the rear of the property.

### Staffing

There were four staff working directly with the children in the service on the day of inspection. The registered provider was the designated person in charge and assists across the rooms. All staff working directly with the children in the service held the minimum Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education 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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 19, 23,25 and 26.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9 management and recruitment, regulation 11 staff ratios, regulation 10 policies and procedures, regulation 19 health, welfare and development of the child, regulation 23 safeguarding health, welfare and development of the child, regulation 25 first aid and regulation 26 fire safety. As a result, the scope of the inspection included time spent in 2 of the early years rooms and the outdoor area.

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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 on the day and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. There was a second named staff available to deputise as required.

The registered provider stated that there were two new members of staff employed in the service since the last inspection on 3 December 2020. The files for the new staff members were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

There were two written and validated references available on file for each of the new staff members.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available on file in the service for the new staff members.

(d)

A Police vetting disclosure was available on file as required for a new staff member who had worked or lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

Certificate of qualifications for the new staff members working directly with the early years children were available on file.

## 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 written policies, procedures, and statements, as specified in Schedule 5, available for the service. A sample of the following policies were reviewed on this inspection and were found to be complete and specific to the setting. The policies reviewed were the infection control policy, the administration of medication policy, behaviour management policy, the healthy eating policy and accident and incidents policy. The policies were made available to parents on the premises and emailed as required.

### 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.*
- (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.*
- (4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-*
- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and*
  - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(2)

There was an adequate number of staff working with the children for the duration of the inspection.

(3)(4)

During the morning, there were 27 children being directly cared for by 4 staff.

In the Montessori room there were 9 children aged 4 to 5 years being cared for by 1 staff member.

In the Montessori activity room, there were 7 children aged 3 to 4 years being cared for 1 staff member.

In the Playroom there were 11 children aged 2 to 4 years being cared for by 2 staff members.

The registered provider was present and available to assist across the rooms as needed.

## 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*

*(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*

*(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following observations and discussions with staff reflect the children's experience within the service focusing on the area of supporting relationships and the physical environment on the day of inspection:

In the Montessori room the children and staff member enjoyed their snacks sitting together. The children were interested in celebrating the Chinese New Year, which had developed an interest in different foods and what they liked eating. They had created a menu for their kitchen, vegetable paintings and smelling bottles with scents to experiment with different smells and flavours. The children's interactions were relaxed, kind and respectful, with the staff observed communicating at the child's level.

The children were fully engaged in their daily routine, helping to tidy up after their snack, and choosing what activity they wanted to do after snack time. Children in the Montessori activity room enjoyed playing outside after their snack. The outdoor space provided children with plenty of space for running, riding their bikes and for imaginative play with open ended objects, such as crates and tyres. Minor disputes were managed well, with the staff observed interacting at the child's level and calmly supporting the children in sharing and taking turns.

The staff spoke with parents at drop off and collection times and communicated via a text messaging service and email. The children's monthly learning stories were displayed outside of the rooms for parents to view.

### 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:

The entrance to the service was appropriately secured to ensure restricted access to unauthorised persons. Cleaning products were stored safely and inaccessible to children. The garden which was located to the rear of premises was fully enclosed and secured with walls and a gate.

##### Infection Control:

The service was clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules maintained daily by staff. Children were observed being supervised with washing their hands before snack, after outdoor play and after toileting. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand washing and drying throughout the service.

##### Administration of Medication:

There were currently no children attending the service who required administration of medication.

### 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 first aid available to the children attending the early years service.
- (2)(a)(b)  
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the premises 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) The registered provider stated that monthly fire drills were carried out. Records were reviewed on inspection to confirm that the last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on 28 November 2022.
  - (b) A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment was serviced. The last maintenance carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place in September 2022.
- (4)
- There was a notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of fire, displayed in a conspicuous position in the service. The fire assembly point was clearly identified.