

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016CW003
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Kloyda Montessori School
-------------------------	--------------------------

Address of Service:	The Urglin Centre, Ruthland, Bennekerry, Co. Carlow
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	R93 YF72
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Marie O'Connor
-------------------------------------	----------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	14/01/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child & Family Agency, Athy Road, Carlow.
Inspection undertaken by:	Norma Thornton
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Kloyda Motessori School is a registered sessional early childhood care and education (ECCE) service which operates from the Urglin community centre in rural Bennekerry in county Carlow. The service's pedagogy is Montessori based. The sessional service operates from 09:00 to 12:00 hours Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the ECCE calendar, providing a sessional ECCE service for children aged 2 to 6 years.

The service operates from a ground floor building which is divided into two classrooms by a bi-folding floor to ceiling door. Each classroom has its own children's toilets, two located adjacent to classroom 1 and a specifically designed disability toilet adjacent to room 2. There is a secure outdoor play area provided for the service at the back of the building which is accessed through a side gate.

Staffing

There are four staff members employed in the service including the registered provider. All four staff members work directly with the children and hold qualifications in early childhood care and education ranging from Level 5 to Level 7 on the national Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) 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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under the following regulations.

- Regulation 9- Management and Recruitment,
- Regulation 10-Policies, Procedures etc. of a Pre-school service,
- Regulation 11-Staffing Levels,
- Regulation 15-Record of a Pre-school Child,
- Regulation 21-Equipment and Materials,
- Regulation 23-Safeguarding Health Safety and Welfare of Child,
- Regulation 24-Checking In and Out and Record of Attendance,
- Regulation 25-First Aid,
- Regulation 26-Fire Safety Measures,
- Regulation 28-Insurance.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included both classrooms and the outdoor play 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

(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) The registered provider was the named designated person in charge in the service and was present for the duration of the inspection. There was a named deputy designated person available to deputise as required.

(b) The staff roster demonstrated that the designated person in charge or a named deputy designated person in charge, was always onsite while the service was in operation.

(2) Staff files for the four staff members were reviewed by the inspector.

(a)(b) Two validated references were available on file for each of the staff members from either a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all four staff members including the registered provider. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable as there was no staff member employed in the service who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

(4) Certificates of qualifications were available for inspection, for each staff member, who as part of their role was working directly with the children, demonstrating that each staff member held at least a minimum Level 5 to Level 8 qualification in early childhood care and education on the national QQI Framework.

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

On review of the service's policies the inspector was assured that the registered provider ensured that all required documents specified in Schedule 5, were available in the service. In discussion with the registered provider and staff present the inspector was assured that the service's policies and procedures were communicated to the staff as part of their induction process on commencing employment in the service, with reviews and revisions taking place as appropriate.

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) There was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the 28 children attending the service.
- (3) In Classroom 1 - There were 2 staff members directly caring for and engaged in work with 16 pre-school children.
In Classroom 2 - There were 2 staff members directly caring for and working with 12 pre-school children.

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.*

Non-Compliance Information

(1) It is acknowledged that of a sample of 12 records of a pre-school child, reviewed by the inspector, elements (a), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) were recorded. However, the inspector observed that element (h)-the immunisation status of each of 7 children was not detailed. The inspector also observed that the written parental/ guardian consent (i) for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency had not been recorded for 6 children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider submitted the following response.

A new application form that has a section for the date of birth on it has been developed, and it also has another new section on it seeking parent/guardians consent to get emergency treatment for their child in case of an emergency in the setting. These have been given out to all parents to fill in. We also have checked the vaccination records and have reminded some families that we still need their child's vaccination records for our files.

We will ensure that all parents/guardians fill in all sections of our new application form when they are enrolling their child, and we will also ensure that we receive the children's vaccination records before the child starts in our setting.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of revised record of pre-school child with amendments made.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted are appropriate to address the non-compliance. The implementation of these actions will be reviewed on next inspection.

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

The service provided furniture and appropriate play equipment, Montessori resources and materials in each of the two classrooms. Interest areas were provided supporting imaginative play such as a kitchen area, art and creativity areas, rest and reading area, and nature tables.

Furniture included suitable designed children’s tables and chairs and low -level shelving which clearly displayed a variety of appropriate Montessori tasks, work materials and equipment arranged in accordance with the five key learning areas of Montessori pedagogy including practical life, sensorial, mathematics, language and culture.

The outdoor area provided interest areas and physically challenging resources including a large wooden tractor and trailer incorporating a climbing frame and two slides, a relaxing basket swing, a large outdoor mud kitchen, balance beams and growing areas.

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 two entrance doors, one to each classroom were secured internally with a high lock system, out of reach of the children. Staff could view any visitors to the service through the windows in the entrance hall.

The outdoor play area located at the back of the building was secured by a locked gate and child height old stone boundary wall, natural hedging and fencing.

Cleaning materials and equipment was observed to be stored away from the children on high shelves which could only be accessed by the staff.

The service’s statement of purpose and function and child safeguarding statement were displayed on the notice board in classroom 1.

Infection Control:

There was an adequate number of children's toilet facilities provided in the service to meet the needs of the children present.

Two child sized toilets and a handwash basin were provided in the facilities adjacent to classroom 1.

Each classroom had a sink available to the children for handwashing and a specifically designed children's disability toilet was available adjacent to classroom 2. A designated staff toilet was available in an adjacent building.

Children's toilets were child sized, and each hand wash basin and sink was supplied with liquid hand soap and paper towelling, which the children could easily access and use.

Staff were observed to safely disinfect the children's tables with paper towelling and suitable disinfectant prior to snack time. The staff were observed support and prompt children with handwashing before snack as well as after toileting and outdoor play. At snack time children were observed to get their lunches from the service refrigerator where they had stored them on arrival to the service.

Administration of Medication:

There was a suitable administration of medication policy in place in the service for the safe administration of all medications.

Staff were well informed of the procedures to follow in obtaining parental consent for all medications and administering temperature reducing medications and prescribed medications.

No medications were required to be administered during the inspection. On review of previous administration of medication records the inspector observed that records were maintained in adherence with the service's administration of medication policy.

Outing:

There was a suitable outings policy available if the staff decided to undertake an outing with the pre-school children.

However, the registered provider and staff informed the inspector that they currently do not operate outings outside off the service premises.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

The inspector observed that works had recently taken place around the boiler in classroom 2. While it is acknowledged that the boiler was inaccessible to the children, the inspector observed that the copper pipes coming from the boiler were left exposed and had not been enclosed. The pipes could potentially be accessed and touched by the children, possibly causing a burn injury if the pipes were hot.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following corrective and preventive actions.

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety: The landlord has been asked to have the boiler pipes area covered and they hope to have someone do this over this midterm. The registered provider will ensure that all the necessary actions are put in place to make sure our setting is a safe environment for all children and staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence of completed work on cover for boiler pipes.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted are appropriate to address the non-compliance. The implementation of these actions will be reviewed on next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) Staff demonstrated to the inspector that each child's daily attendance and departure time to and from the service were recorded daily. On review of attendance records the number of children present in the service correlated with the attendance records maintained by the staff in the two classrooms.

(3)(a) The inspector observed that no person other than a child attending the service, a parent/ guardian dropping or collecting a child, an employee or unpaid worker could enter the premises without authorisation by the registered provider or an employee.

(b) The inspector observed that a daily record of any visitors to the service was maintained and detailed the name, contact details, purpose of visit and times of entry and exit from the service. The inspector was required to record the details in the record book upon arriving at 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

(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid bag was stored in a conspicuous place in the service's office in classroom 1. The first aid bag was easily accessed by a staff member in the event of a child requiring first aid.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was no staff member present with in date first aid responder (FAR) training. It is acknowledged that one staff member's accreditation for FAR had just expired on 18 December 2025 and the registered provider described how they had great difficulty in obtaining refresher training. It is acknowledged that the registered provider demonstrated to the inspector that FAR training and refresher FAR training had been obtained for the following dates 17, 18, 19 February 2026 and 5, 12, 19 March 2026.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

First Aid Responder (FAR) training and refresher FAR training have been obtained for the following dates 17, 18, 19 February 2026 and 5, 12, 19 March 2026. The registered provider will forward certificates of accreditation once the courses are completed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of booking email for FAR training and email confirming that one staff member has attended training.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted are appropriate to address the non-compliance. The implementation of these actions will be reviewed on next inspection.

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) The registered provider ensured that the following fire records were maintained.
- (a) There was a written record of the monthly fire drills that took place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on the 10 September 2025.
 - (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the wall next to each of the two exits.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) A record was maintained of the dates of checking and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and fire alarm system in the service, by a reputable contractor. While it is acknowledged that the last maintenance check for the firefighting equipment was compliant and recorded as having taken place on the 02 September 2025, the smoke alarm system had not been serviced since the last recorded date of April 2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response.

Corrective and Preventive Action

The fire alarm contractor called to the setting week of January 26th and he serviced the alarms. He is going to post out the new certificate.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of fire alarm maintenance certificate.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted are appropriate to address the non-compliance. The implementation of these actions will be reviewed on next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An insurance certificate displaying adequate insurance for a sessional Montessori service for up to 28 preschool children was displayed on the notice board in the service. The maximum number of children currently attending the service is 28.

The insurance certificate provided cover from 28 November 2025 to the 27 November 2026.