

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2021LS002		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Play Together Montessori Preschool		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Church Road, Graiguecullen, Co. Laois		
<b>Eircode:</b>	R93 DX22		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Eleanor Peters		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	21/08/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	22	PM 15
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	K. Murphy		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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		

### Description of service

Established in 2021 the service is registered as a full day care service to accommodate children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service is registered to operate between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. The service is operated by an independent provider as part of a multiple.

The Early Years' Service is located in a purposely adapted single storey building. Three pre-school rooms are provided. A staff room / kitchen is provided in a separate building to the side of the premises. Outdoor play areas are attached to the rear of the service. The service is in an urban setting in a residential area in Graiguecullen, County Laois.

### Staffing

The designated person in charge and five childcare practitioners were present during the inspection. The area manager arrived at the service at 12:00 and was present for the remainder of the inspection and the closing meeting. The registered provider was present for the closing meeting.

### 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.

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 co-operation of the person in charge, area manager, 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.

(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 designated person in charge and a person to deputise were available in the service.

(b)

The designated person in charge was present for the duration of the inspection.

Twelve staff files were reviewed, and the following was noted:

(2)(a)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers in respect of the staff members.

(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from a source other than a past employer in respect of the staff members.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of all staff members.

(d)

Police vetting was available in respect of four staff members who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

All staff members working with children held a major award at level 5 to level 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications.

## Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d)

Police vetting was not available in respect of two staff members who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d)

The two staff members have been informed that they need to provide copies of police vetting from countries they had lived in for a period of greater than 6 months.

Both staff members have applied to their home countries and await the police vetting to come through.

Copies will be sent to EYI office as soon as available.

All staff files have been checked to ensure that validated references, Garda vetting and police vetting where applicable are held on file in respect of all adults working in the service.

Staff files will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the necessary documents as required are held on file.

### Summary Comment

The corrective action if implemented should meet the regulatory requirement. The registered provider will submit the evidence to the Early Years Inspector of the required police vetting upon receipt. The regulatory requirement will be met when the registered provider submits the evidence.

### 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.

(2)

There were twenty-two children attending the service supervised directly by six adults.

(8)(a)

The staff roster indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

## 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

Information for parents was available and shared with parents via a parent handbook prior to commencement in the service in respect of Regulation 16 (1)(a) to (g).

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

*A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that a copy of the of Part V11A (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No.40 of 2013) of the Act and Regulations was available for inspection by (a)(b)(c).

### 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 morning meal and snack were provided by the parents and served at approximately 10:00 and 12:00. A variety of food including fresh fruit, crackers and cheese was observed. The service provided a hot meal and snack to the children in the afternoon. A meal of pasta with tomato sauce, peas and garlic bread was provided to the children at 14:00. Milk was offered in a glass to each child and drinking water was available. A hot snack consisting of beans and toast was served in the evening. A menu plan was in place. Children's dietary needs are catered for. Children were supervised when using the toilet and were assisted where necessary. Staff reminded children to wash their hands after toileting. Regular nappy changes were carried out. Nappy changing practices observed adhered to the service policy. The pre-school rooms were laid out with low level tables and chairs. Materials were accessible to children on low level shelving units and included books, jigsaws, bricks, blocks, dolls, prams, arts and crafts and fine motor skill toys. Children enjoyed arts and crafts, tabletop activities, story time and outdoor play during the inspection. Children made choices as to what they played with and what activity to participate in. Good teamwork was observed amongst staff. Positive interactions were observed between staff and children. Eye contact was maintained, soft language tones were used and positive praise given to children on the completion of activities. Staff were familiar with children and their personalities. Staff worked in partnership with parents. A handheld electronic device was used to record Information relating to each child's day. This information was available in real time to parents for view and comment.

## 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 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.*

*(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-*

*(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Suitable and adequate play and work equipment were provided indoors and outdoors which included toys and equipment for construction, tabletop activities, arts and crafts and home corners.

(b)

Low level beds were available in the service for any child over the age of two years who required rest or sleep.

(3) (a)

Outdoor play areas were available to the rear of the service. Wood chip and tarmac surface areas were in place.

The areas were equipped with a variety of bikes, trikes and a swing /climb/slide unit. A sheltered area was in place to support year-round outdoor play. High-level fencing secured the perimeter of the outdoor area.

### 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 doors to the service were secure to ensure the safety of the children within. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents. The inspector completed the visitor log on arrival. Daily risk assessments were completed in respect of the indoor and outdoor environments.

##### Infection Control:

Cleaning schedules were available and reviewed. All toys and materials were easily cleanable.

Warm running water, liquid soap and hand towel dispensers were available in the sanitary accommodation.

Foot operated pedal bins were available in the pre-school rooms and in the associated sanitary accommodation for the hygienic disposal of waste.

Openable windows and mechanical ventilation were provided in the sanitary accommodation.

A fridge was available for the storage of non-perishable goods in the pre-school rooms. The fridge temperatures were recorded daily.

##### Administration of Medication:

No medication was administered during the inspection. Temperature reducing medication was available in the service if a child presented with a high temperature. Individual plans were in place if required by a child with a defined medical condition.

##### Safe Sleep:

A staff member remained in the room with children to maintain safety and supervision during sleep time.

##### Fire Safety:

A fire assembly point was noted to the front of the service. Fire exit routes were clear and free from obstruction.

##### Outing:

The registered provider stated that outings were not conducted from the service to date in 2023. An outings policy was in place to support practice if required.

## 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)  
Three staff members present were qualified in first aid response (FAR) and two staff members present were qualified in paediatric first aid (PFA) and were rostered to be available on the premises.

(2)(a)  
A first aid box was available in an accessible and conspicuous location in the entrance hall.

(b)  
A fully equipped first aid box was accessible to the children.

## 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)

A written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on 31 July 2023.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment was serviced in November 2022. The smoke alarms were serviced in May 2023.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children attending the service and the expiry date noted as 27 March 2024.