

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023MH005
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Carlanstown Montessori & Afterschool
-------------------------	--------------------------------------

Address of Service:	Normanstown, Carlanstown, Kells, Co. Meath
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	A82 PCK4
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Geraldine McCabe
-------------------------------------	------------------

Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

Date(s) of Inspection:	23/03/2026
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	7
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	---

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath C15 CP23
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham
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
---------------------------------	----------------

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

The service is based adjacent to the registered providers own home in a separate building. Two rooms are in operation namely the Montessori room on the ground floor, and a room on the first floor called the Upstairs Room. A sessional service operates from 9.30am to 12.30pm each day with the option of parttime hours available until 2pm. A school aged service is also operating from the service in the morning before school and in the afternoon.

Staffing

There are five staff members employed in the service which includes the registered provider. On the day of inspection three staff members were present with 13 preschool children.

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.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection. The registered provider arrived at the service following commencement of the inspection and remained for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) (4) On review of staff roster and confirmation by the registered provider, no new staff were employed since the last inspection. The staff files were reviewed on the last inspection and met compliance at the end of the inspection process.

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) During the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.
- (2) The adult to child ratios were correct and observed as follows:
- Montessori Room:** One staff member cared for 8 pre-school children (aged between 3 years and 5 years). Six children were attending for part time day care and two child was attending a sessional service.
 - Upstairs Room:** Two staff members cared for 5 pre-school children (aged between 2 years 3 months and 4 years), 1 child was attending for part time day care and 4 children were attending a sessional service.
- The registered provider arrived in the service following commencement of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(8) Two staff members were present, at all times in the service when preschool children were present as required by Regulation 11 (8), confirmed by the staff roster and staff attendance records.

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 were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic needs:

- Children were observed being facilitated to self-direct their own play. The children were afforded the opportunity to choose activities and to follow through on their choices and change activities if they so wish.
- The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence. Regular hand washing was observed by the children.
- All children in the service were observed enjoying energetic outdoor play with both their peers and staff members at scheduled times during the day.

Supporting Relationships

- Staff members communicated with parents and guardians on a daily basis, informally during drop off and collection.
- The theme for the week was "Easter" with children participating in art work related to the theme.
- The staff members were observed encouraging and collaborating with children in their play activities. They used welcoming facial expressions and gentle vocal tones when engaging with the children and showed a keen interest in what each child was doing. The children sought out staff members for praise, encouragement and reassurance. The staff encouraged the children to engage positively with each other by adopting simple social rules such as turn taking, sharing in play activities and resolving minor disputes.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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-

(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)(b) A cosy area was available in the rooms which consisted of a rug and cushions should a child wish to take a rest. Sleep mats with appropriate bedding were available should a child wish to sleep while attending the service.

(3)(a) There was an outdoor area to the back of the service directly accessible from the preschool room which was suitable and secure.

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 care rooms had defined and supported areas of interest which included library areas beside rest areas, wooden puzzles and building blocks, art and craft materials and montessori equipment. The rooms were bright and airy, and children had room to work on the tables or the floor if they wished. Children's artwork was displayed on the walls in a way that respects and acknowledges all the children's efforts.

The outdoor area was available to the back of the building with a grass surface. Equipment available in the outdoor area included a sand table, balance beam, ride on cars, goal posts and a construction area.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

Children take in their morning snack from home which mainly consisted of sandwiches, yogurts, and fruit. Children who are staying for part time care take in a second snack from home.

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 following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- The main door to the service was secured and the outdoor spaces were enclosed with walls and gates. These security measures ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor spaces.
- All play materials were placed on stable based shelving units. Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children present in the service.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.

Infection Control:

The inspector viewed the following infection control measures undertaken in the service to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children.

- The service was visibly clean and up to date documented cleaning schedules were available.
- Foot-operated pedal waste bins were available in the service which facilitated the hygienic disposal of waste.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Children's lunches were stored in the fridge to prevent the growth of food poisoning bacteria.
- Children were assisted to wash their hands following outdoor play and before lunch.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) A record was kept of each child's time of arrival and departure on a daily basis by the staff members.

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) The service provided evidence that persons had up to date First Aid Responders course and were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) A record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. Fire drills were carried out monthly.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire extinguishers serviced 18th March 2026 and smoke alarms serviced on the 31st May 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the premises

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid insurance certificate for 22 preschool children with an expiry date of 27 March 2026.