

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015FL014 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Avenir School of Montessori Education |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|

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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | 6 Huntstown Rd, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin |
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|                 |          |
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| <b>Eircode:</b> | D15 RX05 |
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|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Viara Gillespie |
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|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Sessional |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 17/06/2026 |
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|                                   |    |    |    |     |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 11 | PM | N/A |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|

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|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate<br>Child and Family Agency<br>Dublin North,<br>Nexus Building Block 6A,<br>Blanchardstown Corporate Park,<br>Dublin 15 |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | Á Dunne                                                                                                                                         |
| <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).

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### Description of service

Avenir School of Montessori Education is a private service which operates from two care rooms on the ground floor of a residential property in Dublin 15. The sessional service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and caters for children aged between 2 years to 6 years from 9am to 12:30pm Monday to Friday. An outdoor area is available to the children to the rear of the premises

### Staffing

The service is operated by the registered provider. A staff member employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) was present. The service also has an emergency contact person who is available and familiar with the service in the event of an emergency.

### 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 and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, 25, 26 and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 19 Health, welfare and development of child, Regulation 23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection was the two care rooms of the sessional service.

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.

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### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(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

The files of three adults were reviewed as part of the inspection.

(2)(a) The registered provider had 2 written references and ensured that two written and validated references were available in relation to one adult from a past employer.

(b) Two written and validated references were available in relation to one adult from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for three adults. The service also demonstrated compliance, with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for two adults who had lived outside the State for longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the registered provider, staff member and emergency contact person held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Minister.

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### 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) On the day of inspection, there were adequate number of adults working directly with the children.
- (3) Two adults worked with 11 children aged 2 years 8mths to 5 years during the morning session from 9.00am to 12.30pm, ensuring ratios were maintained.

### 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) Basic Needs:

- The inspector observed that the children's learning, development, and well-being was supported by the staff and the environment.
- Lunchtime at 11.00am was observed as a relaxed and sociable event with children given time to sit at low tables appropriate to their ages. Children were observed to self-feed, but staff sat with children and were on hand to help as required, supporting independence and wellbeing. The children's water bottles were available to the children to drink.
- The children were free to move between both rooms which were laid out with low level shelving making toys visible and accessible. Toys and materials were varied and suitable to the age and developmental stages of the children; these included Montessori materials, blocks, puzzles, art, and craft materials, play kitchen, cars, trucks, and floor games.

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- The children experienced outdoor play for long periods of time during the morning session.

### Supporting Relationships Around Children:

- Language development was supported by the adults through conversation and playing games using counting and sayings.
- The inspectors observed the staff interacting warmly with the children, engaging positively, and supporting them with their care, work, and play.
- The registered provider informed the inspector that as well as speaking with parents/guardians at drop off/collection times, they communicate through an electronic messaging app and social media.

### Physical Environment:

- The two care rooms were laid out in an inviting manner with low level shelving and child sized tables and chairs which were accessible and available to enable children to independently explore their environment.
- The materials and equipment provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present.
- Family and birthday wall displays were displayed in the service which supported children's well-being and identity and belonging.
- A rest area with two small couches with books, for rest and relaxation was available to the children.
- The children spent time in the outdoor area which was partially sheltered. The children had the opportunity to play with a range of toys and equipment to support full-body movement and activities such as ride on toys, prams, a playhouse, a climbing frame, a seesaw, a mud kitchen and sand play with supporting equipment, ride on tractors, and a dinosaur play area. A planting and digging area for growing vegetables was present.

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### 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 secure. This reduced the risk of unauthorised access or the unsupervised exit of a child. The outdoor area was fully enclosed and secure.
- The arrival and departure times were recorded accurately in attendance record for children.
- No hazards or safety issues were observed in the care rooms or outdoor area - cleaning materials were stored out of reach of the children, no trailing flexes were present, and the blind cord was secure.
- Toys and equipment were maintained in good condition free from hazards preventing risks to the children.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition throughout, with the premises and equipment observed to be visually clean.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled warm water, dispensed liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Children's hands were observed to be washed frequently throughout the day, for example, before lunch, after outdoor play and after toilet visits.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were available for waste disposal.
- Adequate ventilation was available in the care room by means of openable windows and doors.
- Food which is brought from home for lunch time was observed to be refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.

##### Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.
- Emergency exits were kept clear for safe evacuation if needed.

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### 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) One staff member held First Aid Responder (FAR) certification with an expiry date of 21 September 2026.
- (2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in easily accessible and conspicuous position in the 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 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 last recorded fire drill that was carried out in the service was 22 May 2026.
  - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises was available for review. The records showed that the firefighting equipment was last serviced on 26 January 2026 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on 24 February 2026.
- (4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed throughout the service.

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### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Evidence of insurance cover was available to demonstrate there was cover for a maximum of 22 children with an expiry date of 27 March 2027