

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW135
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Name of Service:	Woodlands Montessori
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Address of Service:	Scouts Den, Trafalgar Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A63PA03
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Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Brennan, Gráinne White
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	11/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	Mona Condon
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	N/A
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Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

This sessional service operates in an adapted premises which is in the village of Greystones, County Wicklow. There were 13 children present on the day of inspection. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.00 and 12.00 for 38 weeks of the year and provides care and education to children aged between 2-6 years of age. The service comprises of one care room and a sanitary area. An outdoor area is available to the children at the side of the building

Staffing

The two registered providers provide care and education to the children attending the service.

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 and safety. 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 two registered providers and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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

(2) The files of the two registered providers were reviewed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (a)(b) There were four written and validated references available.
- (c) Documentary evidence of processed Garda Vetting was available for two adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Not required as no adult had lived in another state for a period longer than six months as an adult.
- (4) The two adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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) During the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children.
- (3) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection. On inspection there were 2 adults providing direct care to 13 pre-school children.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(1)(a)

Basic Needs of Infants and Children

- A healthy nutritious lunch which was supplied by the parents in line with the healthy eating policy of the service and was enjoyed by the children on the day of inspection. The adults provided assistance to some children as required. Drinking water was provided with lunch and was freely available in the care room and outdoors throughout the morning.
- Children used the toilet independently and assistance given if required.
- The outdoor area which was partially covered was accessible easily from the room. Age-appropriate toys and equipment were available.
- Each child was treated sensitively and with respect. The adults interactions with the children were observed to be kind, encouraging and if a child became upset they were quickly soothed until ready to return to their friends.

Supporting Relationships around Children

- There was evidence that the service worked in partnership with parents. The staff communicate information to parents daily at drop off and collection times.
- It was evident through conversation that the adults knew each child and their family very well. Reference in conversation was made to sibling's names, their family pet and family interests. This linked the experience at pre-school to their home life.
- The play resources available to the children were accessible, organised and stored on low level shelving which allowed the children to select and replace items and materials of interest.
- There was an adequate amount of age-appropriate furniture and equipment available in the rooms. Equipment included Montessori equipment, construction, home corner, toy animals, puzzles and a library.
- There was evidence of the children's artwork on display in the rooms.

Physical and Material Environment

- There was an adequate amount of age-appropriate furniture and equipment available in the rooms. Equipment included Montessori equipment, construction, home corner, toy animals, puzzles and a library.
- A secure outdoor area was located at the side of the premises. Play equipment available include a balance beam, workshop toys, rockers, transport toys and mat, construction and sand play.
- An ambient temperature of 18.5°C – 22°C was maintained in the care rooms.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 door to the service was secure. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. An outdoor area at the side of the premises was secured by a wall and high metal fencing.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels and a blow air dryer were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues. The room environment and sanitary area which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with required safe practice when administering medication in the service. Medicine was safely stored.

Fire Safety:

Fire exits were unobstructed. There was evidence of monthly fire drills carried out. The fire procedure notice was displayed.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (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 adult employed held current certificates to confirm that they were trained in First Aid Response and was immediately available to the pre-school children. The second adult employed had a qualification in paediatric first aid.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room.
 - (b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The pre-school children were supervised at all times while indoors and in the outdoor area during the session.