

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LH072
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Name of Service:	Peter Pan Crèche & Montessori
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Address of Service:	Ivy House, William St, Drogheda, Co. Louth
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Eircode:	A92 AY24
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Name of Registered Provider:	Adrienne O'Neill
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	06/07/2026
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Date 2 of Inspection:	07/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	32	PM	24
Day 2	AM	33	PM	

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Drumalee, Co Cavan. H12 YY84
Inspection undertaken by:	S Mc Kenna
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).

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Description of service

Peter Pan Crèche and Montessori is one of two early years services operated by the registered provider in Drogheda, with this service located in the centre of town. The service is registered to accommodate a maximum of 65 pre-school children from 1 to 6 years of age on a sessional, part-time and full day care basis, in addition to school age childcare. The service operates from 8.00am to 6.00pm each weekday with eligible pre-school children facilitated to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9.00am – 12.00 midday during term-time for 38 weeks each year. The service is conducted over 4 floors in a converted detached house built in the early 1800s with exterior steps leading from street-level to the service's front door and entrance hallway. The Baby Room and Montessori Room 1 are located off the front hallway on the ground floor, with the Wobbler Room provided on the first floor and Pre-school Room 1 and Pre-school Room 2 operated from the second floor. Montessori Room 2 is located in the basement, which is accessed through two separate flights of exterior stone steps provided to the front and rear of the building. Montessori Room 2 consists of two rooms divided by a hallway, which are operated interchangeably as one space. A separate, smaller room set up for small group activity in the basement is also provided and used by the children attending Montessori Room 2. Ancillary accommodation includes an office on the first floor and also in the basement, a kitchen at ground floor level and sanitary accommodation on the ground floor, the first floor and in the basement. An outdoor play area is provided at the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service employs a total of 19 staff, which includes: the registered provider, a service manager, an assistant manager, 12 staff employed to work with preschool children, 2 staff employed to work with school-aged children, a cook who is employed in a full-time capacity to prepare meals and snacks, and a cleaner who cleans the service outside of operational hours. The registered provider works between both services.

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

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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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9 Management & Recruitment, Regulation 11 Staffing Levels, Regulation 19 Health, Welfare & Development of Child, Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child, Regulation 24 Checking In and Out and Record of Attendance, Regulation 25 First Aid and Regulation 27 Supervision.

The Preschool 2 room catered for school-aged children on both days of the inspection and therefore did not form part of this inspection.

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 registered provider, person in charge, 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

- (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
 - (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.
- (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 service had a designated person in charge, who is the service manager, and a named person to deputise in their absence.
- (b) Following discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that when the preschool service was in operation, the designated person in charge or the named person in charge was on the premises.
- (c) A management structure was in place, which was clearly identifiable through review of the staff roster and in discussion with the staff team.
- (2) The files for 18 staff were reviewed.

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- (a) (b) Two written and validated references were on file for 18 adults, to include a total of 30 references from a previous employer, and 6 references from reputable sources.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for 6 employed staff.
- (d) A review of the employment history for 18 staff demonstrated that 4 adults had lived outside the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months. The required police vetting for the 4 staff members was available on file.
- (4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that 15 staff employed to work with children held an appropriate childcare qualification at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. A qualification for the cook, cleaner and the two school-aged staff was not required as they are not employed to work directly with preschool children.

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,*

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Compliance Information

(1) On both days of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspector arrived unannounced on Day 1 as below;

- One adult cared for 5 children aged 1 year 4 months to 3 years 4 months in the Baby Room, one of whom attended on a sessional basis, and 4 children attended on a part-time or full-day care basis.
- One adult cared for 5 children aged 3 years 8 months to 4 years 4 months in Montessori 1 Room, all of whom attended on a part-time or full-day care basis.
- One adult cared for 5 children aged 2 years 3 months to 2 years 7 months in the Wobbler Room, all of whom were attending on a part-time or full-day care basis.
- One adult cared for 6 children aged 2 years 9 months to 3 years 6 months in Preschool1 Room, all of whom were attending on a part-time or full-day care basis.
- Two adults cared for 11 children aged 3 years 3 months to 4 years 3 months in Montessori 2 Room, 1 of whom attended on a sessional basis, and 10 were attending on a part-time or full-day care basis.

The adult to child ratios were correct in the service on Day 2 as below;

- One adult cared for 5 children in the Baby Room.
- One adult cared for 7 children in the Montessori 1 Room.
- Two adults cared for 11 children in the Montessori 2 Room.
- One adult cared for 4 children in the Wobbler Room.
- One adult cared for 6 children in the Preschool 1 Room.

In addition to the above, two adults cared for school-aged children in Preschool Room 2 on both days.

The service manager and two floating staff covered staff lunches on Day 1 and Day 2.

The registered provider arrived shortly after the inspection commenced on Day 1 and remained on-site for the remainder of the inspection, assisting in care rooms where needed and was on-site on Day 2.

(8) A review of the staff roster demonstrated that the registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times while the service was in operation.

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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*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

The following examples demonstrate how children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated in the service:

Basic Needs

Snack and meal times were observed to be relaxed social events where staff and children used meal times to sit and have conversations. The children had access to their drink bottles during the day, and staff were observed encouraging children to drink water during the warm weather.

The younger children had their nappies changed in line with set daily times and also when their care needs required. The staff were observed to use this time to talk to children on a one-to-one basis about their home life and families. The older children who used the toilet were permitted to use the sanitary areas independently, which were located outside the care room, located off the hallway on each floor level.

Bibs were used for younger children at meal times; spare clothing was available for younger children, with clothes changed when required. Aprons were available for messy play activities.

Rest areas were provided in each of the care rooms inspected, which included soft mats, soft play shapes, child-sized seats and cushions, providing an area for children to take time out and rest during their day.

Sleep time was scheduled in the Baby room after dinner time. The room was set up as a sleep room, and children attending this room, who did not sleep, transitioned to the Wobbler room during this time, and children attending the Wobbler room who required sleep slept in the Baby room during this time.

A comfortable sofa was provided in the baby room where staff were observed to nurse and feed a young child a bottle before their bedtime.

All children experienced a change of environment to the outdoor area on both days of inspection, and were dressed appropriately for the warm weather, with sun cream applied, and sunhats were used. The children's drink

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bottles were taken outdoors during their play time, and staff gave gentle reminders for children to have some of their drinks due to the warmer weather.

Supporting Relationships

The atmosphere upon the inspector's arrival on both days was warm and welcoming, and the children were observed engaged in play activities within their care rooms and in the outdoor area.

Positive interactions were observed between children and their peers and between staff and children. The children appeared familiar with those who cared for them, and opportunities were provided for siblings to spend time together by chatting over the care room gates to their siblings or in the outdoor area.

The staff were observed to promote positive behaviour, with praise given for positive behaviour interactions such as sharing toys. No disagreements between children were observed.

The staff were observed to demonstrate sensitivity, warmth and positive regard for children and their families, through respecting parental wishes while also ensuring children's individual preferences and choices were met.

The staff were observed to communicate using soft, gentle tones while interacting with the children in all care rooms. Open communication with parents of a new child settling in was observed, and over the course of the two days of inspection, the new child spent some more time on-site when they displayed signs of becoming settled in their new environment.

Daily written records were maintained for children in the Baby and Wobbler rooms, as well as verbal handovers at arrival and collection time. A digital messaging service is also used, plus phone calls to parents where needed.

Strong teamwork was evident; the staff were observed to work well together, supporting one another and ensuring the transitions were smooth for children within their care.

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 inspector observed the following safety measures in practice within the service:

The main entrance door was secured upon the inspector's arrival. The entrance doors remained locked when not in use during the inspection, ensuring no unauthorised person could enter the building or no child could leave the building unsupervised. Ground surfacing indoors was maintained in a good state of repair. Stairways were

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maintained in good condition. Storage areas were inaccessible to children. Cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children. Play equipment and resources were observed to be maintained in good condition. The outdoor areas were secured by high-level walls and secure gates, to prevent a pre-school child gaining unsupervised access to a roadway or other source of danger and to prevent unauthorised access to the garden or external play area. Blind cords were out of reach of children. Fire exits remained free from obstruction during both inspection days.

Infection Control:

The inspector observed the following infection control measures in practice within the service:

Handwashing was observed to take place after the children used the toilet, after having their nappy changes, and before snack and meal times. Hand soap, bins, and paper towels were available at each wash hand basin. The care rooms were well ventilated and maintained between the required temperatures of 18°C - 22°C. The care rooms and sanitary areas were observed to be maintained in a clean manner. Cleaning schedules were in place, up to date and completed by the relevant staff. Bed linen is washed weekly on site or more often if required. Nappy changing procedures were carried out in line with the service policy. Care rooms and Sanitary areas are ventilated through means of openable windows, and in addition, the placement of a cooler fan in the Baby room when used as a sleep room after dinner, in order to maintain the required room temperature during sleep time. Tables were cleaned before and after meals. External waste bins were stored securely and were inaccessible to children.

Safe Sleep:

Sleep facilities were provided for children. The Baby Room was set up as a sleep room after dinner, with one cot for a child aged under 2 years, and 5 stackable beds for children aged 2 years and over.

Sleep checks were maintained for the sleeping children, which were completed by the adults at each ten-minute interval, and recorded the sleeping children's position, skin colour and room temperature, and staff signature.

Sleeping children were supervised by staff.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The hot water in all sanitary areas was in excess of 43°C, which posed a risk of injury to children. It is acknowledged that mixer taps are in place; however, as the older children use the sanitary areas independently, this presented a risk of scalding from the hot water. When brought to the attention of the registered provider the immediate interim measures put into place reduced the hot water temperatures to between 20 - 30°C.

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- The ground surface in the larger section of the outdoor area is worn in places. Some areas are beginning to wear away, with one deeper hole present, which presented a trip hazard risk. It is acknowledged when brought to the registered provider's attention, they covered the area with a tyre on Day 1 and a rubber mat on Day 2 as an interim measure.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- The manager contacted a plumber/electrician, who attended to the issue and rectified the problem on 07.07.2026. Measures will be put in place to check the hot water am/pm, this will be recorded and inspected by management
- The manager contacted a company on 07.07.2026 to repair the playground. A rubber mat has been placed there as an interim measure while we are awaiting the repair. The Playground surface will be checked by management daily before the first class goes out to play.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photo of water temperature recorded at 37.8°C. Photograph of rubber mat in place where deeper hole was present.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted have adequately addressed the non-compliances in Regulation 23.

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*

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

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider used written records which detailed each child's arrival and departure time daily.

(3) (a) The registered provider ensured that only preschool children, a person dropping off or collecting a preschool child, an employee, or an unpaid worker can enter the premises upon the staff's approval.

(b) A visitor log book is maintained. The inspector was requested to sign in upon arrival on both inspection days.

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 box was available in the office, stored in an accessible and conspicuous location out of the reach of children.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did not ensure that a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service on Day 1 of inspection, and upon review of the weekly roster as follows;

- Between 8am and 8.15am and 5:45 to 6pm on Day 1.
- The roster for the remainder of the week had no FAR staff cover as follows: 8am to 8.15am and 5.45pm to 6pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and 8am to 8.15am and 5.15pm to 6pm on Friday.

It is acknowledged that when brought to the registered provider's attention, they changed the staff rostered hours to ensure FAR cover for 5.45pm – 6pm on Day 1, and subsequently for the remainder of the week, and booked a FAR course for an additional staff member for 10 July 2026.

This is a recurring non-compliance from the last inspection, where the corrective and preventive action outlined *"The management team are currently sourcing first aid courses. The staff rota will be managed on a weekly basis*

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to ensure a FAR-trained member of staff is on the premises at all times". The actions outlined were insufficient to prevent recurrence.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Management rectified the issue by making changes on the rota to ensure that there was a member of staff on the premises at all times trained in First Aid Response FAR. The manager secured a place on a FAR training course on Friday 10th of July. Management will also make sure there is an adequate amount of staff on the rota between 8 am- 6 pm.

Supporting documentation submitted

Updated Roster. Copy of one additional staff member's FAR training complete on 10.07.2026.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted have adequately addressed the non-compliance in Regulation 25.

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

On the day of the inspection, the inspector observed the staff members appropriately supervising the children in attendance by both sight and sound. In the care rooms, staff members ensured they were positioned in order to supervise all children in the care room. Similarly, in the outdoors, staff members positioned themselves strategically to ensure all children were in sight at all times. At mealtimes, staff members sat with the children, offering support while also promoting independence. The children who were toilet trained were observed to independently use the sanitary areas located in the hallway outside their care rooms. The staff in these rooms supervised children through sound and were aware of how long children were gone for and were observed to call to them to see if they needed support. As most care rooms have one core member of staff present, where support is required, staff were observed to use the phone to ring for support or call out to staff in close proximity for support when needed.