

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015OY033
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Name of Service:	Linda's Creche & Montessori
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Address of Service:	10 St Patrick's Wood, Edenderry, Co. Offaly
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Eircode:	R45 NH21
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Name of Registered Provider:	Linda Nagle
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	10
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Linda's Creche & Montessori is located in a housing estate in the town of Edenderry Co. Offaly and has been operational since 2004. The service caters for children aged between 2 years and 6 years. The service operates from Monday to Friday between the hours of 7:20 am and 6pm. Two sessional services are operated from 9am to 12pm and 12.30pm to 3.30 pm. A school age service is also provided.

Linda's Creche & Montessori is operated from a converted domestic dwelling in which the ground floor is used for the sole purpose of operating a childcare service. The service consists of a reception lobby, a laundry room, a kitchen, one sleep room, a nappy changing room, and three sanitary accommodations with wash hand basins. Two playrooms are provided. Playroom 1, the preschool room which accommodates children aged 3 to 5 years and Playroom 2, the wobbler/toddler room which accommodates children aged 2 to 3 years.

The service provides 2 separate, secure outdoor play areas to the rear of the premises.

A car parking area is provided outside the front of the service.

Staffing

The service employs nine adults including the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.

All adults employed and working directly with the pre-school children in the service had completed a major award in Early Childhood Care Education.

Nine adults including eight core staff members were present on the day of the inspection and they were all working directly with the preschool children. There was one other adult who was a student on placement and supernumerary.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under.

- Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1), (2), (8)(a) – Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 19(1)(b) – Health, Welfare and Development of child.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First aid.
- Regulation 28 – Insurance.

however, on inspection additional non-compliances were identified under:

- Regulation 29(c) – Premises.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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.*

Compliance Information

(1)

(a)(b) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required, both remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider it was determined that one adult and one student on placement had been employed since the previous inspection. Two files were reviewed.

(2)

(a)(b) Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were available in respect of one adult employed and one student on placement.

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

(d) Not applicable, as no adult had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(4) One adult 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.

(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) There were eleven children attending the service being supervised directly by six adults and one student.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection. This was confirmed following review of the staff roster for the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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-

(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

(1)(b)

The adults working with the children spoke and interacted with them to in a kind and respectful manner. First names, appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were observed being used during all interactions.

The adults were familiar with each child and their personality.

Freshly prepared food and snacks were provided at regular intervals during the day. As it was a very warm day the staff ensured that the children were reminded and encouraged to drink water frequently. Young children had the opportunity to feed themselves and their drinks were within their reach throughout the day should they feel thirsty. The staff members sat with the children at mealtimes and encouraged social interaction and conversations. The staff members in the two care rooms were observed nursing young children and comforting other children who were upset.

Children's toileting and nappy changing requirements were completed regularly and promptly when required. This area of practice was managed in a sensitive and positive manner.

Needs led sleep was available for any child requiring sleep in Preschool room 1 however the children needing sleep, slept at a designated time during the day and were provided with as much time as they needed to sleep.

Older children were encouraged to be independent as they managed their personal belongings and got dressed for outdoor play assisted by adults as needed.

Transitions were well managed throughout the day by the staff members in the service. There was a predictability to the children's day, and the routine was unhurried and paced to suit the needs of the children. The children responded positively to this.

As it was a very warm day all children were given an opportunity for daily outdoor play during the morning when it was cooler. There were three defined outdoor areas for the various age groups to use and plenty of toys and equipment available to the children.

Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection times. Face to face meetings can be arranged for parents/guardians as necessary and email and telephone contact are used as an alternative method of contact.

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:

Then entrance door to the service was electronically secured and managed by staff members to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. The outdoor area in the service was secured. The registered provider documented the inspectors' visit to the service in the visitor's book on arrival. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. There was documentary evidence available that daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments were completed daily and any risks were promptly identified and managed. The service had a system in place to manage maintenance issues.

Staff members in each care room advised the inspector they would remove any beaded necklace if observed that a child may be wearing them. The staff members were aware of the potential choking risks that grapes posed when asked by the inspectors.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members were familiar with the importance of handwashing practice as a means to control the spread of infection in the service. They supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. Facilities were available for nappy changing and the nappy changing practices were consistent with the nappy change procedure for the service. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues, and a designated foot pedal operated nappy change bin was available in the nappy change accommodation. Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments 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 the required safe practice when administering medication and documentation of same in the service. Medicine was safely stored in each care room.

Safe Sleep:

A sleep room with one cot and one low level sleep bed was available for any child aged over 2 years who required to sleep or rest. The staff members were familiar with current safe sleep guidance and the required care of sleeping

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

children. The staff members completed 10 minute sleep observations on the children who required sleep. Comfortable rest areas were available for the children in each care room if they wished to take a break from activities and rest.

Fire Safety:

Monthly fire drills were completed, and staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. The fire exits were not obstructed.

Outing:

The service does not conduct outings.

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) Staff members present were trained in in first aid response (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)

(a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the two care rooms.

(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children were available at all times to the adults caring for the children attending the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 valid until 27 March 2027. The insurance provided cover for 37 children.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

Non-Compliance Information

- (c)
- The environmental temperatures in the two care rooms was raised and not maintained between the required 18° – 22°Celsius during the inspection. At 12:04 hours the temperature in Preschool room 1 was 26.6° Celsius and at 12:05hours the temperature in Preshool room 2 was 27.6° Celsius
The registered providers response is acknowledged when informed of the raised environmental room temperatures. Three fans were sourced; window blinds were closed and windows opened to create movement of air. She ensured that the children were as comfortable as possible given the heat conditions on the day when informed of the raised environmental temperatures. Cold drinks were frequently offered and any extra clothing worn by the children was removed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (c)
- Cool air fans were purchased along with the existing fans provided in both preschool rooms 1 and 2. New room thermometers were also purchased to monitor the room temperatures.
Plans are in place to have air conditioning fully implemented into the service when we close for our easter break in March 2027. This will give enough time and space to the installers, and any maintenance works that will be needed to be carried out as a result of works can also take place over this week. When the service reopens on April 5th, 2027, this unit will be fully installed and ready for the coming summer period.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting documentation submitted.

Fans observed on inspection.

Summary Comment

The written response submitted by the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. The response meets the requirement for regulation 29(c). This regulation will be assessed at the next inspection.