

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO052
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Scooters Creche & Montessori
-------------------------	------------------------------

Address of Service:	Rusheen Ard, Caltragh, Co. Sligo
----------------------------	----------------------------------

Eircode:	F91 HP49
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Catriona Belton
-------------------------------------	-----------------

Service type:	Full Day
----------------------	----------

Date(s) of Inspection:	13/03/2026
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	35
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	L Costello
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

Scooters Creche & Montessori full day care service is located in a residential area of Sligo town. A service is provided to children aged between one and six years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 7:30am to 6:30pm as per the national register. The service also provides a school aged service.

Staffing

There are 14 adults employed in the service. On the day 11 adults worked directly with the children including the person in charge. The registered provider works on the premises. There was one adult employed as cook. In addition, three students were on placement in 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/ 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 -

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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, 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*
- (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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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)

There was a person in charge and a person available to deputise as required.

(b)

The named person in charge or the deputy person in charge is available while the service is in operation. This was demonstrated in a sample review of staff attendance documentation.

(c)

The adults in the service demonstrated on discussion with the inspector awareness of their roles and responsibilities and lines of governance within the service.

(2)

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that three new adults had been employed since the previous inspection. Therefore, a total of three files were reviewed.

(a) Four written and verified past employer references were available in respect of the three adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the three new adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years as the thirteen files previously reviewed had evidence of disclosures reviewed within the three years.

(d) International police vetting was required for the one adult who had resided outside the state for a period of six months or more as an adult.

(4)

Evidence of completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent was on file for the one adult in the service s and two adults held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

Two adults had no evidence of a second written and validated reference available.

(3)

A review of documentation evidenced that the requirements of Regulation 9(2) had not been completed prior to two adults being appointed, assigned, or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the preschool service as outlined above under point 2(a)(b)

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In a written response the registered provider stated:

(2) (a)(b)

Two written and validated references have been submitted. References will be obtained and verified references before employment commences.

(3)

Before employment staff member must have relevant documents with translations and varication's. A checklist will be in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Verified references submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive action submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the preschool service. There were 10 adults working directly with 43 children in the morning of the unannounced inspection. The deputy person in charge and person in charge was also available to cover in rooms if required.

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children ratio were provided on the day of the inspection in accordance with the required ratio considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service.

(8) (c)

The registered provider ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises when children were present in the service as evidenced in a sample of attendance records reviewed

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) all documents and records relating to references and Garda and police vetting obtained under Regulation 9(2) are retained for a period of 5 years from the date on which the person to whom the document or record relates commences working in the service, and*
- (b) a record referred to in subparagraph (h), (j) or (k) of paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service, or in the case of a preschool service in a drop-in centre or of a temporary pre-school service, for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

(4) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises by a parent or guardian of a child but only in respect of information concerning that child.

Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider demonstrated that a record of (a-k) was retained in writing for the service.

(2) (a)

The registered provider is aware of the statutory requirement to retain records relating to Regulation 9 (2) for a period of five years.

(2) (b)

The registered provider is aware of the regulatory requirement to retain records in relation to (h) (j) (k) for the period set out in regulation.

(3)

These records were made available on the day to the authorised person.

Non-Compliance Information

(4)

It is acknowledged that the registered provider ensured that records in relation to paragraph (1) were made available to the parent or guardian. However, in relation to (1) (k) accidents and incidents; these records were recorded in a log system and records relating to other children could be viewed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In a written response the registered provider stated:

(4)

Individual accident forms are in place once signed by parent, this will be photocopied, one given to parent and the other kept in the office. All staff have been made aware of this new system and will be updated in the policies and procedures. Children's information will only be given to their parent/guardian.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting documentation submitted

- Accident and incident form

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive action has been submitted and deemed adequate.

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-

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Four care rooms were in operation on the day of inspection. Each of the care rooms were observed to have adequate facilities and resources for the age and stage of the children accommodating them.

‘Senior Montessori’

This room caters for the older child preparing for primary school and resources available support the needs of the older children. Equipment in this room is bigger at a height level suitable to the older child. Home corners, dress up box allow for imaginary play. Construction areas with cars, trucks and tracks support imaginary play. Arts and crafts support creativity and evidence of the children’s artwork is clearly displayed on the walls of the service.

Toddler Room’

The toddler room is brightly decorated in bright colours. Pictures of the children’s families hanging on the wall provide a connection to home. Appropriate size tables and chairs are provided for tabletop activities and arts and crafts. Shelving stocked with a variety of puzzles, building blocks, small world items, farm animals, magnets, cars, trucks, musical toys etc allow for rotation of resources depending on the child’s request. Soft matting in the corner of the room allows opportunities for children to relax as books from the library are read and children are encouraged to participate.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

'Baby Room'

This room is decorated in bright colours to catch the attention of the young baby. Equipment and resources are available at a suitable height for the age of the children accommodating the room. Resources include home corners and kitchen for imaginary play. Musical toys and building blocks for coordination. A variety of soft toys and textured equipment provide opportunities for sensory development. The equipment in this room is easily moved and rearranged. Staff members were observed to ensure children gained opportunities for movement and dance by moving furniture, ensuring space and development of gross motor skills.

Junior Montessori'

This room is decorated with the children's artwork which adds colour to the walls. Interest areas include home corners, construction corners, puzzles and tabletop activities for fine motor skill development. Open shelving equipped with a variety of resources support a child led approach. On the day of inspection, the children were participating in arts and crafts in preparation for mother's day and st Patricks day. A clay heart fingerprint was made by each of the children for their mothers as a gift. St Patricks day hats were made for the upcoming parade.

'Dining Room'

The dining room allowed for a separate area for children to access the meals. The older children were observed to use the dining room where appropriate and sufficient number of chairs and tables were provided for the comfort of the preschool children.

'Outdoor area'

The outdoor area consisted of an enclosed area secured by high fencing. Bikes and trikes were available for gross motor skill development. The outdoor space provided an opportunity for children to run around and get fresh air. A gazebo provided shelter from rain or sun.

(1)(b)

All rooms had appropriate rest areas by means of soft matting and cushions where children could rest. A designated sleep room was available adjacent to the baby room. Five standard cots with cellular blankets were available for the young children. In the toddler room, stackable floor beds were provided for children to have sleep or rest.

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

The registered provider ensured that suitable and nutritious food and drink were available to the preschool children attending the service.

On the day of the inspection, breakfast included a choice of cereals or porridge. Morning snack of mixed fresh fruit and yoghurt. The main meal of the day was chicken curry and rice. Afternoon snack was homemade pizza. All food provided was in line with the service healthy eating policy. On discussion with the chef on duty, the service caterers for children with allergies and food preferences or intolerances.

Portable drinking water was available in all care rooms throughout the day and served alongside meals.

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 premises was secure on the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service.
- Windows have been risk assessed with safety restrictors in place as necessary.
- Toys and equipment are in good condition.
- Leads and flexes are secured to walls as necessary.
- Storage areas are inaccessible to the preschool children.

Infection Control:

- Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels are available for effective hand hygiene.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to meal times and after messy play.
- Children's hands were washed after nappy changing, toileting and messy play.
- Nappy changes were observed to be in line with the service policy.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Administration of Medication:

- No medication was administered on the day of inspection. On discussion with staff members, they were aware of the service policy on medication administration.

Safe Sleep:

- The service responded to the needs of the children in relation to sleep. Young children were put down to bed as per their need.
- Five standard cots were available in the baby designated sleep room.
- Stackable floor beds were available for children over two years of age.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors remained unobstructed throughout the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

- The standard cots provided did not have the required waterproof mattress protectors, therefore mattresses could not be cleaned efficiently between uses posing a risk of contamination.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

- New waterproof mattress protectors have been purchased. Staff have been informed of same.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

- Invoice for waterproof covers submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider have been reviewed and deemed adequate to address the non-compliance found on inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 registered provider demonstrated that there was a sufficient number of adults trained in first aid for children with certification for three adults up until June 2027.

(2) (a)(b)

Adequately stocked first aid boxes were available in a conspicuous location available to children as required.

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.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-

(a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,

(b) an employee, and

(c) an authorised person.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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 service demonstrated that emergency evacuation drills occur regularly in the service in line with the service policy. The most recent fire drill was dated as the 2 February 2026.

(1)(b)

A record of all firefighting equipment and maintenance records were available with the most recent annual maintenance date of May 2025.

(2)(c)

These records were made available on the day to the authorised person.

(3)

The registered provider is aware of the regulatory requirement to retain these records for a period of five years.

(4)

Emergency evacuation plans and assembly points are clearly displayed around the service to ensure safe evacuation in the event of a fire.

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

Children were observed to be supervised at all times in the service.

At mealtimes staff members sat alongside children engaged in conversation and ensuring children's needs were attended to if required. For example, where children required promoting in trying food provided or assistance in opening yoghurts or cutting food. In the younger children's rooms, staff members were observed to sit at the child's level promoting independence in self-feeding, while encouraging and assisting if required.

Throughout play time both indoors and outdoors, the staff members were observed to work as a team ensuring they were positioned around the area to ensure all children were in view at all times.

The older children were encouraged to use the bathroom independently and staff members ensured they were in ear shot available to assist if required.

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

The service provided certification of adequate insurance for a full day care service for 80 preschool children up until the 27 March 2026.