

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2020DY006 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Karaville Childcare |
|-------------------------|---------------------|

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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | Ardilaun Court, Sybil Hill Road, Clontarf, Dublin 5, Co. Dublin |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

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|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | D05 Y2X2 |
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|                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Kate O Donohoe, Sara Kearney |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|

|                      |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|

|                               |            |
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| <b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b> | 15/07/2026 |
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|                                   |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 23 | PM | 12 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate,<br>Child and Family Agency,<br>Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park,<br>Dublin 15. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | E. Saini                                                                                                                                |
| <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

Karaville Montessori is a private service which provides sessional, part time and full-time care and education to children aged from 2 yrs 6 months to 12 years. The service is registered to operate from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday

The purpose-built service occupies a unit on the ground floor of a residential complex and has two care rooms, namely, the Meadows room and the Wildflower room. School age children are facilitated in the Meadows room in the afternoon. The children have access to an enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The service employs a total of nine staff to include two registered providers, one person in charge, five childcare staff and one relief staff. There were six adults present on the day of inspection of whom four were working directly with the children in the two care rooms.

### 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 not announced, and focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, 25 and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child. The scope of the inspection included the one care room.

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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, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

### Statutory Notices

| Notice                              | Date Served                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Detail                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Immediate Action Notice<br>IAN 2121 | 15/07/2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | There was no record of International Police Vetting available on the day of inspection for one staff member who had access to children. |
| <b>Status</b>                       | The registered provider submitted corrective and preventative actions which addressed the immediate risk and therefore were accepted. The vetting disclosure must be obtained and submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate prior to the person having access or contact with children. |                                                                                                                                         |

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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

2.

The following vetting information was available for 9 adults:

- a. Fifteen written validated references from past employers for 8 of the adults.
- b. Three written validated references from reputable sources for 2 of the adults.
- c. Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 9 number staff. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- d. Police vetting from the police authorities in another state was available for 7 adults who had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or more.

(4) Documentation was available to demonstrate that nine staff working in the service held 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.

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### Non-Compliance Information

(d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice 2121 served.

### 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 the children as there were 4 adults working with 23 children aged between 2 years 6 months -5 years of age in the morning and 3 adults working with 12 children in the afternoon.

(2) The correct adult / child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times. The adult child ratios were maintained as follows;

#### **Meadows Room:**

Two adults caring for 13 children aged between 4 -5 years of age in the morning.

#### **Wildflower Room:**

Two adults caring for 10 children aged between 2 years 6 months -4 years of age in the morning. Both classes combined in the afternoon to the Wildflower room which had three adults caring for 12 children.

(8) (a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were present on the premises at all times.

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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*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following observations are examples of how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service.

#### Basic Care Needs

- All the children attending the service on the day of inspection were afforded the opportunity to spend time in the outdoor area to the rear of the service during the inspection and were dressed appropriately prior to going outside.
- The sanitary accommodation, which was located just beside the classrooms, provided children with access to use the toilet and wash their hands as needed.
- The children appeared comfortable and confident in their environments and were familiar with the daily routine and activities.
- The mealtime experience was observed to be a leisurely sociable occasion, where children sat together with their peers and the staff and chatted.

#### Supporting relationships around children

- Staff demonstrated warm and caring interactions with the children. Children received help from staff when needed.
- Staff were observed interacting with the children and engaging in children's play at table top activities and art and mark making activities such as colouring, drawing and glueing.
- Identity and belonging were promoted in the service. For example, there were 'Family Wall' displays at children's level with photographs of children's families. Children's artwork was displayed in the care rooms.

#### Physical and Material environment

- There was age-appropriate furniture with small child sized chairs and tables for children to sit whilst they played or for mealtimes.

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- Children had access to a variety of materials within the classrooms which were appropriate to their age and stage of development. The children had access to a range of Montessori equipment, including wooden cylinders and Montessori shapes, plastic building bricks and boards and wooden blocks to support construction, a play kitchen, with wooden toy food and dolls, large wooden dolls house, garage, and dress up shelf to support dramatic and pretend play for children, a wide range of large wooden jigsaws, a selection of books to provide opportunities for storytelling and to support children's language development, and a wide assortment of tabletop resources. The children were observed enjoying activities whilst being well supported by the staff present.
- Children attending on a full day care basis had the opportunity to spend a set time in a different care room, giving them a chance to experience a change in environment throughout the day.

### 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:

- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of the children.
- The door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- Materials were observed to be in a good state of repair.
- The outdoor area was secured with tall fencing and bolted gates.

##### Infection Control:

- The materials and resources, and sanitary facilities were observed to be kept maintained and clean.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes.
- Foot pedal bins were observed throughout the premises.
- Children's lunches provided by parents were refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.

##### Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were unobstructed in the event of an emergency evacuation.
- There were fire drill procedures displayed in both classrooms of the service.

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### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

An emergency medication stored in the Meadows room had passed its expiry and remained available for use, this posed a potential risk of delayed medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

The registered provider confirmed that the emergency medication has been replaced and is now in date. The service policy has been reviewed. To prevent reoccurrence a Monthly Emergency Medication Checklist has been introduced. Management will be responsible for conducting the monthly check.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Copy of checklist submitted.

Photographic evidence of in date medication.

#### Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been accepted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

### 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 ensured that a person trained in first aid response (FAR), was immediately available at all times to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) The registered provider ensured that a suitably equipped first aid box was always easily accessible.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children at all times.

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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

The registered provider ensured adequate insurance was in place for the full day care service for 38 children up until 27 March 2027.