

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2025DR003
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Karaville Montessori & Childcare
-------------------------	----------------------------------

Address of Service:	Green Acre Grange, Kilmacud Road Upper, Dundrum, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	D14 K2H6
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Kate O'Donohoe, Sara Kearney
-------------------------------------	------------------------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	04/08/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM	18
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	H Sutherland and O Quill
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Karaville Montessori & Childcare is a privately owned service located in an urban area of Dundrum South Dublin. The service is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and is registered to provide sessional, part time and full day care and education to children aged 2 to 6 years. The service operates from a purposely adapted facility located at ground level within a residential apartment complex and comprises of four care rooms; Oasis, Willow, Meadow and Wildflower. Additionally, a fully enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of the premises. On the day of the inspection, the Wildflower and Meadow rooms were in operation. In addition to the early years provision, a school age service operates each afternoon.

Staffing

There are currently seven staff employed to work in the service including two registered providers, the person in charge and four early years educators. On the day of the inspection there were five adults present including one of the registered providers and five early years educators one of which was employed by another service operated by the registered providers.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 inspectors 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*
- (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*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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.

(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 and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The deputy person in charge was present when the inspectors arrived unannounced at the service. A review of the staff roster showed that a designated person was on the premises at all times during the opening hours of the service.
 - (c) The service had a clear management structure and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) Following a discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that two adults commenced employment in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on 28 July 2025. Documentation required under Regulation 9 (2), (3), and (4) was reviewed in respect of the two adults as detailed below and one adult supporting the service from another service operated by the registered providers. In addition, Garda vetting for one staff member whose disclosure was identified as due for renewal was requested for review.
- (a) (b) There were two references available for each of the adults which had been appropriately verified.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for four adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting was available in respect of three adults who had lived outside of the State for a period longer than six months as an adult.
- (3) Documentation reviewed showed that the procedures specified above under Regulation 9(2) had been carried out before the three adults commenced employment in the service.
- (4) Documentation was available to show that the three adults who worked directly with children attending the service held a qualification deemed appropriate by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE).

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) On the day of inspection, there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children to meet their care needs.
- (2) The registered providers ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained on the day of inspection. There were 24 children present in the service in the morning supervised by 4 adults and 18 children supervised by 3 adults in the afternoon.
- (8) (a) The roster provided to the inspectors by the person in charge showed that a minimum of two staff members were on the premises at all times during the operational hours of the service.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

The registered providers ensure that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place in the service as evidenced by the following:

Staff reported that the service provides breakfast, a hot lunch and an evening snack and that the parents/guardians provide a morning snack. The inspectors observed that meals were served regularly and in a timely manner. Children were observed to take an active role in the mealtime routine by handing out water bottles and lunch boxes to their peers. They appeared to display a sense of responsibility while carrying out the tasks. Staff sat with children during mealtime and engaged them in warm, friendly conversation supporting the development of their communication and social skills.

During the inspection, children were observed to contribute to their daily routine, they tidied up following play and lunch, stacked away chairs and set up a rest space with mats and cushions in preparation for the rest period after lunch. Drinking water was stored at children's level ensuring ease of access throughout the day. Toileting routines promoted independence and children were observed to engage in regular handwashing following use of the toilet and before their meals. Areas with rugs and books were available in the care rooms allowing children to take a rest during the day if required.

Children appeared familiar with the daily routine, as evidenced by their smooth transition between activities. They moved freely around the care room, demonstrating autonomy in selecting and engaging with play materials. All of the children had the opportunity to engage in outdoor play during the inspection and were appropriately dressed for the weather.

Staff were observed to be warm, respectful and responsive in their interactions with children, taking time to notice and respond to nonverbal cues. Staff confirmed that communication with parents takes place daily at both drop off and collection times, as well as through an online application. They stated that they share key aspects of the children's day including meals, activities, achievements and the child's emotional wellbeing.

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 adequately secured to prevent unauthorised persons from entering and to ensure children could not exit unsupervised. Access was controlled through a keypad entry system for staff and parents/guardians, while visitors were required to be admitted by a staff member.
- The internal doors were appropriately secured and prevented children accessing unsafe areas.
- All toys and equipment observed on the day of inspection were in good condition and free from pinch or crush points.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored in a safe and secure manner and were inaccessible to children.
- A shock-absorbing surface was installed in the outdoor area.

Infection Control:

- Pedal operated bins were in use in the sanitary areas and care rooms to support the safe disposal of waste.
- Liquid soap, warm water and single use paper towels were available at wash hand basins.
- Children were supported to engage in appropriate and consistent hand-washing routines.
- Staff were observed to clean and disinfect the tables prior to mealtimes.
- The care rooms were visibly clean and well maintained. Cleaning schedules were available outlining cleaning tasks.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated an understanding of the procedures required to ensure the safe administration of medication when necessary. This included obtaining written parental/guardian consent and ensuring both the staff member who administered the medication and the staff member who witnessed its administration signed the relevant records.
- Administration of medication records were available for use if required.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Safe Sleep:

- Staff reported that children do not routinely sleep in the service. However, appropriate provisions were available if a child required sleep. Staff demonstrated an understanding of safe sleep procedures including carrying out physical checks every ten minutes and recording the room temperature, the child's position, their breathing pattern and colour of their face.
- A sleep log was available for use if required.

Fire Safety:

- Staff adequately detailed the procedure to safely evacuate children from the service in the event of a fire.
- Fire exits were observed to be unobstructed, clearly identified and easily opened from the inside during the 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) There was evidence to show that three adults hold certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training, two of which were available for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and stored safely in easily accessible and prominent position in the care rooms.

(b) The first aid boxes were observed to be readily available to the adults caring for the children attending the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- 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 inspection by
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill took place in June 2026.
 - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises were up to date. Fire extinguishers were last serviced on 7 December 2025 and smoke alarms were serviced on 2 July 2026.
- (2)
- (c) The registered providers ensured that the required records were readily available and open to inspection by the inspectors.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed within the care rooms and communal areas.

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 was adequately insured, evidenced by a current certificate of insurance relevant to the type of service being operated.