

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC045		
Name of Service:	Bandon Montessori and Creche (Meadowlands)		
Address of Service:	Meadowlands, Bandon, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P72 K406		
Name of Registered Provider:	Aine Murphy		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	11/04/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM 27
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440		
Inspection undertaken by:	V. McCarthy		
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		

Description of service

Bandon Montessori and Creche (Meadowlands) is a privately operated full day care service that also caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) and school going children. It provides care to children aged from birth to six years of age. The hours of operation are 8am to 6pm each Monday to Friday. The service is carried out in a two-storey detached house that is situated in a residential area on the outskirts of Bandon town. There are two care rooms downstairs of which one care room is divided by a barrier into the Wobbler area and the Pre-Montessori area. The second care room downstairs is the Montessori (A) room. There is one care room located upstairs namely the Montessori (B) room. There are two designated sleep rooms adjacent to the Wobbler area that are available for children aged less than two years. There is an outdoor play area provided to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There were seven adults present on the premises on the day of inspection and all adults were working directly with the early years children. The registered provider was not service based.

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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections 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-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 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

(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 named person in charge and a deputy that could deputise as required.
 - (b) The deputy was on the premises when the inspector arrived and the person in charge who was attending to duties off the premises returned within 10 minutes and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- The person in charge confirmed that five adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 21 April 2022, therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.
- (a) There were five references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the five adults.
 - (b) There were five references and required validations from sources other than past employers.
 - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the five adults.
 - (d) Not applicable as no adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the five adults.

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)

The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.

(2)

During the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children. There were six adults working across the three care areas that were in use with 27 early years children in attendance. Additionally, a seventh adult arrived on duty at 12 midday and was available to cover the adult's breaks.

- The Wobbler area– there were eight children of which six were aged between one and two years and two were aged between two and three years with two adults in attendance.
- The Pre-Montessori area– there were five children aged between two and three years with two adults in attendance.
- The Montessori (B) room - there were 14 children aged over three years with two adults in attendance.

(8)(a)

The person in charge ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises. On the morning of the inspection, there were three adults on the premises at 8am when the service opened its doors. The roster demonstrated that there would be two adults on the premises at 6pm.

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:

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)

(h) The service used a digital application for the recording of all care provided to the children. This application was also used for the recording of the children's arrival and departure times. Each care room had its own digital device to enter the relevant details and the inspector noted that all attendance details in respect of the 27 early years children on site during the inspection had been recorded correctly.

(i) The person in charge furnished the inspector with a copy of the staff roster for the week commencing 11 April 2023 and it was in line with the names and number of staff that were on duty during the inspection.

(j) The service used the digital application or sometimes used a paper record for the recording of any medications administered to an early years child. The record was completed in full and signed by two adults when any medication was administered to a child. The person in charge informed the inspector that parental consent was always obtained before administering any medication. During the inspection, the inspector assessed a sample of written forms in respect of one child and a digital record in respect of a second child that were completed since January 2023 and found that all details were recorded in full.

(k) The digital application used by the service for the recording of any accidents, injuries and incidents at the premises was available for review.

During the inspection, the inspector assessed that there were 22 records regarding incidents and injuries available on file for the year 2023 so far. Eleven of the records were in respect of the Wobbler room, two records were in respect of the Pre Montessori room, four were in respect of the Montessori (A) room and five were in respect of the Montessori (B) room. The person in charge informed the inspector that all incidents no matter how minor were recorded. The records demonstrated that the adults dated each record, gave an account of the event, the management of the incident/injury, was signed by the adult maintaining the record and each of the records was co-signed by the respective child's parent/guardian.

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)

Basic Needs:

- Any child that was thirsty throughout the day or required additional fluids could easily access a drink as they chose as their individual water bottles or beakers were stored on low tables in the respective care rooms.
- All the food eaten by the children for their daily snacks and meals was supplied by the children's respective parents or guardians and served to the children at the required snack and meal break times.
- The children's need for rest, relaxation and comfort was met as each of the care rooms were provided with a rest area consisting of either soft matting, armchairs or soft cushions. The children were able to access the rest area as they chose for play, rest, or quiet time.
- The children that required a sleep were provided with a standard cot or stackable bed depending on their age and stage of development and were monitored appropriately by the adults.
- The children's need to use the toilet was promptly and sensitively attended to. The independent use of the toilet by the older children was encouraged and supported as appropriate by the adults.
- The toddlers that wore nappies had their nappies changed regularly by the adults.

- Hand hygiene by the children was supported and encouraged by the adults who supervised the children when they washed their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

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 main entrance door leading into the building and the side gate that led to the outdoor play area were both secured and prevented unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The outdoor play area was secured by high fencing and a secured gate.
- Each of the highchairs in the Wobbler room were provided with a safety harness that was in good condition.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelves or secured presses out of children's reach.
- The sleep room temperatures were maintained between 16°C and 20°C. During the inspection the sleep room air temperatures in both sleep rooms were recorded at 17.6°C
- The wash hand basins throughout the premises were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water. The water temperature was recorded at 19.9°C during the inspection.
- The radiators in the care rooms were provided with protective covers.
- The kitchen was kept secured and could not be accessed by an unsupervised child.
- There was a handrail fitted at child height for children's use on the staircase.

Infection Control:

- The adults adhered to the services' Nappy changing policy and washed their hands and wore disposable aprons and gloves for each nappy change.
- The changing mats used were sanitised after each nappy change.
- Wipes, nappies, and barrier creams were individually labelled and not for communal use.
- The person in charge informed the inspector that each care room was cleaned daily by the staff that worked in the respective care room. The staff cleaned the frequently touched contact areas regularly during the day and did a deep clean of the premises each Friday. There were detailed cleaning records available to the inspector for review. The premise, furniture and play materials were all noted to be in clean and good condition during the inspection.

- Adults were aware of the correct measures for coughing and sneezing and therefore could help children follow this process if required. There were boxes of tissues provided in each care room.
- Crockery was used by the children during their snack and dinner meal breaks.
- There was a large fridge available in the kitchen to store the children's food for their snacks and meals. There were smaller fridges provided off the Wobbler and Montessori (B) rooms.
- Hand washing occurred regularly and at required times by both the staff and children.
- A supply of warm water, liquid soap, paper towels, pedal operated bins and hand sanitiser available throughout the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The toilet seat on one of the upstairs children's toilets had been removed prior to the inspection as it was in disrepair but had not been replaced with a safe toilet seat.

Infection Control:

2. During the inspection, it was noted that there was bed linen on four of the children's stackable beds that were stored stacked on top of each other in the sleep room. Some of the linen was trailing and in contact with linen from the other beds which posed as a risk of cross contamination.
3. The wall paint in one area of the upstairs toilet was flaking off and not in good condition. It posed as a risk of cross infection as it was not easily cleanable.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A toilet seat was purchased for the upstairs children's toilet and has been fitted in place.

Infection Control:

2. The children's bed linen is stored in individually labelled containers.
3. The painting of the upstairs toilet has been noted on the services' maintenance and painting list that will be carried out during the summer months.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A photograph of the new toilet seat on children's toilet was submitted to the inspector on 27 April 2023.

Infection Control:

1. The bed linen that was on the children's stackable beds was stored away into individually labelled containers on the day of inspection.
2. The check list for maintenance and jobs to be carried out was furnished to the inspector on 27 April 2023.
All painting jobs will be addressed out over the summer months.

Summary Comment

The documentation and photograph submitted by the registered provider relating to the non-compliances were reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

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 service provided evidence that three adults had up to date training in first aid response (FAR).
- (2)
(a) There were three fully equipped first aid boxes available on the premises. One was stored on a high shelf in the Montessori (B) room and two were stored on a high shelf in the kitchen, all out of children's reach.
(b) The first aid boxes were always available on the premises.

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.
- (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) There were records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service available on file. A fire drill was last carried out by the service on 03 April 2023.
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment and wired smoke alarm were serviced during March 2023.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed at the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The services' insurance certificate was available on the premises and demonstrated that the service was adequately insured. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of early years children covered which was 47, the start date, which was 28 March 2023, the end date, which was 27 March 2024, the category of service covered which was full day care and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.