

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC046			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bandon Montessori and Daycare			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	18 Rosewood Lawn, New Cork Road, Bandon, Co. Cork			
<b>Eircode:</b>	P72 VK25			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Aine Murphy			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	17/05/2023			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	32	PM	29
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	V. McCarthy			
<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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

Bandon Montessori and Daycare is a privately owned service that is registered to provide full day, part time care, sessional care and Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) to children aged from birth to six years. Bandon Montessori and Daycare is situated in a residential area on the suburbs of Bandon town in Co. Cork. It operates from a purpose built detached two storey building. There are three care rooms in use, namely the Wobbler room, the Pre Montessori room and an upstairs care room, referred to as Montessori (2) room. There is an outdoor area located to the rear of the building. Opening hours are between 8am and 6pm.

### Staffing

On the day of inspection, there were eight adults on the premises all working directly with the 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
- (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.

(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 person in charge was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- The person in charge confirmed that one adult had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 02 November 2022, therefore recruitment records in relation to this adult were reviewed.
- (a) There was one reference and required validation available on file from a past employer in respect of the adult.
  - (b) There was one reference and required validation available on file from a source other than a past employer.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of the adult.

(d) Not applicable as the adult had not 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 the adult.

### 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 working directly with the children.

(2)

On the day of inspection there were 32 children present on the premises with eight adults directly supervising them.

- The Wobbler room – there were nine children of which seven were aged between one and two years and two were aged over two years. All the children attended part time/full day care with two adults in attendance.

- The Pre-Montessori room – there were 13 children of which two were aged between two and three years and 11 were aged over three years. Two children attended sessional service and 11 children attended part time/full day care with four adults in attendance.
- The Montessori (2) room – there were 10 children all aged over three years. One child attended sessional service and nine children attended part time/full day care with two adults in attendance.

(8)(a) The person in charge ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises during the hours of operation. On the morning of the inspection, there were five adults on the premises at 8am when the service opened its doors and 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:*

*(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(j) The service used a digital application for the recording of any medications administered to the early years children. The person in charge informed and demonstrated to the inspector, by providing the records maintained regarding a child that had been administered a medication since September 2022, that parental consent was obtained before administering the medication and that the details of the medication administered were checked by two adults and recorded in full.

## 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)

#### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- The service was situated in a residential area and had developed strong links with community services such as the Garda service, the fire station and postal service who visited the service periodically under staff supervision.
- There were key adults assigned to the children in each care room and throughout the inspection, the adults were observed providing comfort and speaking positively to the early years children in their care.
- General Information regarding the services' activities was provided to parents and guardians by means of an electronic application, notices, emails, written records and by verbal communication.
- Parents and guardians were informally spoken to daily at drop off and collection times and formal meetings were arranged as requested by parents/guardians regarding their respective child.
- Full-service meetings were carried out monthly and the records demonstrated that the last service meeting was carried out on 04 May 2023. Each room at the service carried out weekly meetings to assess, plan and evaluate the activities and care that was provided to the early years children in their care. Records regarding these plans were available on file for review.

## 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

##### Infection Control:

- Regular handwashing by the early years children was carried out before snack and mealtimes and after using the toilet, messy play, and outdoor play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, and paper dispensers. The water temperature was recorded between 24.6°C and 31.3°C during the inspection.
- The adults adhered to the services' Nappy changing policy and washed their hands and wore a disposable apron and gloves for each nappy change.
- The nappy changing mat was sanitised after each nappy change.
- The children's bags and belongings were stored off the floor on individual wall hooks.
- 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. 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 for the inspector to review. The premise, furniture and play materials were all noted to be clean and in 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 available in each care room.
- Crockery was used by the children during their snack and dinner meal breaks.
- There was a fridge available in each care room to store the children's food for their snacks and meals.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises.

### 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 was a fully equipped first aid box available in each of the three care rooms. All the first aid boxes were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.  
(b) The fully equipped first aid boxes were always available on the premises.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

(e) There were two toilet cubicles situated off the Pre Montessori room and the Montessori (2) room respectively. Each of the four toilets was accompanied by a wash hand basin for children's use. There were two toilets and two wash hand basins for adult's use, one positioned on the ground floor and the second positioned on the first floor. There was one nappy changing room located off the Wobbler room that had appropriate storage provided for all the necessary nappy changing materials. The nappy changing mat was smooth and easy to clean and was maintained in good condition. There was a supply of liquid soap and disposable paper towels or electric hand driers beside each wash hand basin for hygienic handwashing and hand drying. The hot water was thermostatically controlled and during the inspection the water temperature was recorded between 24.6°C and 31.3°C. Pedal operated bins fitted with lids were provided throughout the premises.