

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC113
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Name of Service:	Corbally Montessori & Early Years Preschool
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Address of Service:	Jimmys Cross, Corbally, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	T12 R5HX
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ann Quirke
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	24/01/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	58	PM	29
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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

N/A

Description of service

Corbally Montessori & Early Years Preschool is located in a rural setting. It is a privately operated service, which caters for early years children aged between 1 and 6 years. It provides full day care, part-time care and sessional care which includes the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service is open from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8am and 6pm. A school age service is also provided on the premises. Corbally Montessori & Early Years Preschool operates from a detached single storey building located to the rear of the Registered Provider's private residence and a purpose-built prefabricated structure positioned in the outdoor play area. There are 4 care rooms namely the ECCE (1) purple room, ECCE (1) blue room, Toddler room and the ECCE (2) room. There is a variety of outdoor play areas on the grounds of the premises.

Staffing

There were 8 adults including the registered provider, on the premises during the inspection, working directly with the children. There are 9 adults in total attached to 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/ health, welfare and development of child/ 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-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, 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 registered provider was the named person in charge and there was a named deputy that could deputise as required.
 - (b) The registered provider was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) There were 17 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 9 adults.
 - (b) There was 1 reference and required validation from a source other than a past employer in respect of 1 of the adults
 - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure that was processed within the last 3 years was available on file in respect of each of the 9 adults.

(d) Police vetting was 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 9 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 registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.

(2) On the day of the inspection there were 8 adults working directly with 58 early years children. The registered provider was additional and was available to work with the children when some adults took their breaks.

(8)(a) There were always at least 2 adults on the premises during the hours of operation. The roster demonstrated that there were 2 qualified adults on the premises at 8am and that there would be 2 adults on the premises at 5.30pm when the service closed.

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)

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The service comprised of 4 care rooms to cater for the children of which 3 namely the ECCE (1) purple room, ECCE (1) blue room and the Toddler room which were situated in the main building. The ECCE (2) room was situated in the prefabricated structure. A sleep room, office area, 2 areas of children's toilet/nappy facilities and 1 toilet area that was designated for use by the staff were all situated in the main building. A second toilet for adult use and 3 toilets for children's use were provided in the prefabricated building.
- The sleep room was furnished with 8 cots to meet younger children's sleep needs and a supply of stackable beds were available for any older children that required a sleep.
- Each care room was provided with a rest area consisting of either a child sized couch or bench with cushions and soft colourful floor matting that children could go to as they chose.
- There was shelving and storage containers available in each of the 4-care rooms that facilitated clear visibility by the children and easy access to the play materials.
- There were child sized tables and chairs provided in each care room for children's use. There were also 2 highchairs and 6 low chairs fitted with attached trays available in the Toddler room for the younger children in attendance.
- There were a variety of outdoor areas on the premises available for children's use. The large outdoor area had grass surface and was secured by hedging and fencing from the roadway and by a fence and gate from the service's car park. It was provided with anchored goal posts, a wooden castle climbing frame, a slide, picnic tables, playhouse, a vegetable patch and a risky play area fitted with climbing ropes. A second outdoor play area had a tarmac surface and was only used by the children at designated times that did not coincide with parents dropping off and collecting children as they also used this tarmac area to turn their cars. A third outdoor play area was located off the Toddler room and consisted of a decking structure that

was provided with roof cover, artificial grass and fencing. This area was furnished with a variety of sit on and ride on play equipment, tents and a low slide. A fourth roof covered outdoor area was provided beside the ECCE (2) room. It was furnished with child sized tables and chairs, containers of children’s play materials, soft padded mats and it was secured by fencing a and a gate. The outside entrance area leading into the ECCE (1) room was also provided with some roof cover to facilitate outdoor play in all- weather types and was furnished with long benches to facilitate the children to dress themselves independently and easily as they could sit down when they put on and off their outdoor protective clothing and wellies.

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 high shelving units in the ECCE (1) blue room and Toddler room were securely anchored.

Infection Control:

- Each care room was cleaned daily and the adults carried out a deep clean weekly. Detailed cleaning records were available to the inspector for review.
- Bed linen was not shared between children and was stored in individually labelled storage units. Children’s linen was provided by their parents and guardians and was laundered in their respective homes as required.
- The 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 of the 4 care rooms for children’s use.
- Disposable single use aprons and gloves were available adjacent to the nappy changing area beside the ECCE (1) blue room. Disposable gloves were also available adjacent to the nappy changing area off the Toddler room.
- The nappy mat on the nappy changing unit off the ECCE(1) blue room was noted to be clean on all sides.
- A fridge was available in each of the 4 care rooms for the storage of the children’s perishable food.
- A supply of crockery was available to the children during their snack and meal breaks.

- A supply of cleaning agents and cleaning equipment were available at the service.
- The children's coats and personal belongings were stored on hooks or on picture labelled shelves.
- The children's spare additional clothing was stored in individual labelled sealed bags in a storage container.
- A supply of warm water was available at each wash hand basin throughout the premises. The water temperature was recorded at 16.1°C.
- Liquid soap dispensers were available beside each wash hand basin. Disposable paper towels in dispensers were available in each toilet area. Pedal operated bins were provided throughout the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The high shelving unit in the ECCE (1) purple room was not anchored to the wall and posed a risk of tipping over on to the children.

Infection Control:

2. Disposable single use aprons were not available adjacent to the nappy changing area beside the Toddler room, and this posed a risk of cross infection.
3. The nappy mat in the toilet/nappy changing area off the Toddler room was stored on the floor and posed a risk of cross contamination.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The high shelving unit in the ECCE (1) purple room has been securely anchored to the wall. The adults will check in future to ensure high units are re-anchored if furniture gets moved.

Infection Control:

2. Disposable single use aprons and nappy bags are now provided adjacent to the nappy changing area beside the Toddler room. The registered provider stated in her written response that disposable items will be restocked weekly going forward.
3. The nappy mat in the toilet/nappy changing area off the Toddler room is no longer stored on the floor. The registered provider stated in her written response that all new staff will be informed about the risks of cross contamination.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A photograph of the anchored 8 cube wall unit was submitted to the inspectorate on 13 February 2024.

Infection Control:

2. A photograph of a supply of disposable single use aprons and nappy bags in the nappy changing area off the Toddler room was submitted on 13 February 2024.
3. A photograph of the nappy changing mat off the floor was submitted on 13 February 2024.

Summary Comment

The documentation and photographs submitted by the registered provider were reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

Compliance Information

(1)
Records were available to demonstrate that each child was checked in and out daily at the service by the adults. The inspector assessed a sample of records covering a period of 7 days and the records were maintained complete at arrival and leaving times each day in respect of all the children. On the day of inspection there were 58 early years children on the premises and each child had been checked in on his/her arrival by the adults. A sign in record with 27 names was available for the ECCE (1) blue and ECCE (1) purple rooms, a sign in record with 9 names was available for the Toddler room and a sign in record with 22 names was available for the ECCE (2) room.

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 children covered daily which was 60 early years children. 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 service and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.