

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC113			
Name of Service:	Corbally Montessori & Early Years Preschool			
Address of Service:	Jimmys Cross, Corbally, Co. Cork			
Eircode:	T12 R5HX			
Name of Registered Provider:	Ann Quirke			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	19/05/2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	20
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
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Description of service

Corbally Montessori & Early Years Preschool is located in a rural setting. It is a privately operated service, which caters for children aged between one and six 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 situated to the rear of the Registered Provider's private residence and a purpose-built prefabricated structure positioned off the outdoor play area. There are four care rooms namely the Baby room, ECCE (1) room, Toddler room and ECCE (2) room. There is a variety of outdoor play areas on the grounds of the premises.

Staffing

There were eight adults including the registered provider working directly with the children on the premises during the inspection.

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 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*

(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 who was the registered provider and a deputy that could deputise as required.

(b) The registered provider was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The registered provider confirmed that four adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 23 May 2022, therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.

(a) There were seven references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the four adults.

(b) There was one reference and required validation from a source other than a past employer.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the four 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 four 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 eight adults in attendance with 43 early years children.

- There were three toddlers aged between one and two years in the Baby room with two adults in attendance.
- There were 15 children in the ECCE (1) room of which 10 were attending sessional service and five were attending full day care with two adults in attendance.
- There were eight children in the Toddler room of which one was attending sessional service and seven attending part time/full day care with two adults in attendance.
- There were 17 children in the ECCE (2) room of which 12 were attending sessional service and five were attending full day care with two adults in attendance.

(8)(a) There were always at least two adults on the premises during the hours of operation. The roster demonstrated that there were two adults on the premises at 8am and that there would be three adults on the premises at closing time.

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:

- The food eaten by the children for their snacks and dinner meal was appetising and healthy and was provided by each child's respective parents or guardians.
- The children's individual water bottles and beakers were always available to the children. They were stored on a low shelf or table in each of the care rooms or taken outdoors on a tray during outdoor play activities. Any child that was thirsty throughout the day or required additional fluids could easily access a drink as they chose.
- The children's need for rest, relaxation and comfort was met as each of the care rooms was provided with a rest area consisting of soft matting, couches and cushions. The children were able to access the rest area as they chose for play or quiet time.
- The children's need to use the toilet was promptly and sensitively attended to. The independent use of the toilet by the children was encouraged and supported as appropriate by the adults.
- Hand hygiene by the children was supported and encouraged by the adults who supervised them when they washed and dried their hands before eating, after outdoor play and after using the toilet.
- The children were provided with multiple opportunities daily to play outside and were dressed appropriately in light clothing and sunhats.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

- A designated sleep room was available on the premises and was positioned directly off the Baby room.
- There were eight cots provided in the sleep room for any child aged less than two years that required a sleep.
- It was noted that each cot was spaced adequately so that an adult could easily move around and between the cots to attend to the children's needs.
- Each cot was provided with a washable well-fitting mattress or mattress protector cover that was washed after each child's use.
- Individual bed linen was available for each child. The children's linen was stored in individually labelled bags on designated shelving.
- The service had a supply of additional clean linen that could be used if required.
- There were five stacking beds available in the storeroom, and a supply of five others in the attic if required, for any child aged over two years of age that may require a sleep.
- The Baby room was provided with large soft floor mats that facilitated safe crawling and quiet time by the toddlers.

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 office area positioned beside the Baby room was secured by a half door.
- Visibility strips were provided on all low glass panelled doors.
- The cords attached to the blinds in the sleep room off the Baby room were all secured by wall brackets.

- The cleaning agents in each care room were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
- All leads and flexes attached to stereos were kept out of children's reach.

Infection Control:

- The children and adult's toilet areas were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water at the wash hand basins, liquid soap and paper dispensers. The water temperature was recorded between 28.2°C and 41.2°C at the wash hand basins in these areas during the inspection.
- The changing mats and units off the Baby and ECCE (1) rooms were sanitised after each nappy change and the children's hands were washed and dried hygienically.
- Children's bags and belongings were stored on wall hooks or in individual shelving units.
- Wipes, nappies and barrier creams were individually labelled and not for communal use. They were stored in individually labelled secured bags.
- The children's bed and cot linen were labelled and stored individually.
- A box of paper tissues was available in each care room for any child who required a tissue to facilitate their nasal hygiene.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises to facilitate safe hygienic disposal.
- Detailed daily and weekly cleaning templates were available for review.
- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before snack and mealtimes and after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- Crockery was used by the children during their snack and dinner meal breaks.
- A fridge was provided in each care room to store the children's perishable food.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The high press units in the Baby room were not anchored which posed as a potential injury hazard to the children.

Infection Control:

2. When the inspector arrived on the premises, thermostatically hot water not available at the wash hand basin positioned in the nappy changing room beside the Baby room which posed a risk of cross infection.
3. Liquid soap was not available at the wash hand basin in the nappy changing room beside the Baby room for hygienic hand washing which posed a risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The high presses in the Baby room were anchored and the registered provider stated in her corrective action and preventive action (CAPA) response dated 20 June 2023 that she will ensure that the adults regularly check the condition and safety of all the furniture and fittings in future.

Infection Control:

2. The registered provider turned on the switch that provided hot water to this wash hand basin immediately once it was brought to her attention that the water was cold. The inspector rechecked the water temperature again at 12.15 hours and the water temperature was recorded at 31.3°C. The registered provider informed the inspector that she will ensure that the switch to provide hot water is turned on each morning.
3. A dispenser and liquid soap have been provided at the wash hand basin in the nappy changing room beside the Baby room.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A photograph of the anchored presses was submitted.

Infection Control:

2. The registered provider stated in her corrective action and preventive action (CAPA) response dated 20 June 2023 that the adults attached to the ECCE room will sign a form each morning once they have the switch to provide hot water turned on.
3. A photograph of the new dispenser and liquid soap was submitted to the inspector on 20 June 2023.

Summary Comment

The documentation and photographs 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 an adult had training in first aid response (FAR) and that this adult was always on the premises.

(2)
(a) There were four fully equipped first aid boxes available on the premises. All were stored on high shelves or were wall mounted high 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) Records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service were available on file. The last fire drills were carried out on 20 April 2023 and 19 May 2023.
 - (b) Records regarding the number, service and type of fire equipment were maintained on file. The fire equipment and wired smoke alarms were serviced during July 2022.
- (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 on the main notice board at the premises.