

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC144
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Name of Service:	Explore the World Montessori Pre School
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Address of Service:	Kilmalooda, Ballinascarthy, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P85 RX84
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Name of Registered Provider:	Jennifer Mccabe
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/04/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	n/a
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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
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Description of service

Explore the World is a privately owned service that provides sessional care and the Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) Scheme to children aged between 2 and 6 years. The service is carried out in rooms that are situated to one side of the registered providers' private residence which is located in a rural area of West Cork. The opening hours are between 9.10 am and 12.10 pm 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

There are 2 adults working in the service, including the registered provider. Each of the adults has a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 service had a named person in charge who was the registered provider and a named deputy that could deputise as required.
- (b) Both the registered provider and deputy were on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) There were 3 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 2 adults.
- (b) There was 1 reference and required validation from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file for review in respect of each of the 2 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years in respect of each adult.
- (d) Police vetting was available for 2 locations in respect of 1 adult that 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 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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.
- (3) On the morning of the inspection there were 2 adults working directly with 17 children. The ratio of staff to children met the requirement of 1:11.

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:*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (k) During the inspection, the inspector assessed that there were 7 records regarding incidents and injuries available on file for the year 2024 so far. 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. The respective parent/guardian was provided with a duplicate copy of the incident which was available in the template record book.

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:

- Handwashing by the children was carried out before snack and mealtimes and after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and well stocked paper dispensers. The water temperature was maintained less than 43°C and was recorded at 19.4°C during the inspection.
- Children's coats were stored on picture labelled individual wall hooks and their wellies and bags were stored off the floor in storage containers.
- A box of paper tissues was available on a low windowsill for any child who required access to a tissue to attend to their nasal hygiene. A pedal operated bin was close by so that the children could correctly dispose of used tissues.
- There were detailed cleaning records available to the inspector for review and the inspector noted that the adults adhered to them as the premise, furniture, soft seating and play materials were all in clean and good condition.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were not observed to be administered on the day of inspection. However, the registered provider was able to demonstrate to the inspector that should a child need a medication to be administered that it was given and that all medications were appropriately stored on a high shelf out of children's reach. A template booklet for the recoding of any medications given was available on the premises and the booklet had duplicate pages so that the completed form could be given to the respective parent/guardian.

Fire Safety:

- The external doors had been fitted with a quick release system since the last inspection to facilitate the safe evacuation of children and adults in case of a fire.
- Fire drills were carried out regularly at the premises and the fire evacuation procedure was displayed in writing format and by pictures on a wall by the entrance door to the care room.

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 1 adult had up to date training in first aid response (FAR) and that this adult was always on the premises during the hours of operation.
- (2)
(a) There was a first aid cabinet available at the premises which was kept fully equipped. The first aid cabinet was wall mounted high out of children's reach.
(b) The equipped first aid cabinet was 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 firefighting 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. The records demonstrated that a fire drill was last carried out by the service on 09 April 2024.
 - (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 was last serviced on 11 January 2024 and that the wired smoke alarm was last serviced on 27 February 2024. It was noted that the wired smoke alarm had been newly installed since the previous inspection.
- (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 both in writing and by pictures at the premises.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(c) There were 3 ceiling light bulbs and 3 windows in the care room which provided both natural and artificial light. Each window had a high opening that could be opened to ventilate the room as necessary. The sanitary accommodation was also provided with a window that could be opened to ventilate the space as required. The premises was provided with oil heating and there were wall mounted radiators each fitted with a protective cover. The air room temperature was maintained between 18°C and 22°C. It was noted that the registered provider opened the windows regularly to ventilate the spaces and during the inspection, the air room temperature was recorded at 18.1°C.

(d) The premises, furniture and equipment appeared clean and was maintained in good repair and good condition. The adults were observed cleaning, brushing, and dusting at various times throughout the inspection. There were daily and weekly cleaning schedules available for review that detailed the areas being cleaned and the frequency of the cleaning.

(e) There were 2 toilet cubicles available for children's use and each was accompanied by a wash hand basin. In a separate location off the corridor, there was 1 toilet and wash hand basin for adult's use. There was a supply of liquid soap and disposable paper towels beside each wash hand basin for hygienic handwashing and hand drying. The hot water was thermostatically controlled to less than 43°C and during the inspection the water temperature was recorded at 19.4°C. Pedal operated bins fitted with lids were provided throughout the premises.