

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015CC172							
Name of Service	Great Beginnings Montessori							
Address of Service:	Bridge Hall, Innishannon, Co Cork							
Email Address:	gbmontessori@yahoo.com							
Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Margaret Desmond							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed change:	Increase in numbers from 44 to 52							
Proposed Number of Children:	52							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	52							
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 44 to 52							
Date of Inspection:	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	4
Inspection undertaken by:	C Stokes							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate,							
	St Marys Health Campus, Cork T23X440							

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 52 Children
Date of Registration	23 rd February 2024

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	This Montessori based full day care service was established in 2015 and operates for 38 weeks of the year offering ECCE sessional, part time and full day care services. It is registered for children aged 2-6 years and currently offers care to children aged 2 years and 8 months to school going age. Its registered hours of operation are from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. The service operates a play based, Montessori inspired pedagogical approach to care and learning.
Premises	The service operates from a historical schoolhouse, which is a listed building and care is provided in 2 playrooms. There is an adjacent outdoor area to the side of the building.
Staffing	The registered provider is service based. There are 6 staff between the 2 playrooms plus the registered provider. The adults had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of QQI level 5.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	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

	<p>Child and Family Agency Act 2013</p> <p>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016</p>	<p>Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)</p>	<p>2 of 10</p>
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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.

Requirement met:

- The requirement has been met.
- The registered provider is the person in charge and a deputy person in charge is in place.

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.

Requirement met:

(1) The requirement has been met. The registered provider proposes that at all times an adequate number of adults, will work directly with the children attending. The following is proposed:

Room	Adults	Children
Senior ECCE	4	30
Junior ECCE	2	22

Part V – Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for Rest and Play

(2) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(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.

(3) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or

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(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

Requirement met:

(1) (a)

- There were adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors.
- The two playrooms were laid out with different interest areas and open shelving with accessible toys and materials for children to access these independently.
- The equipment and materials were age appropriate.
- Child sized tables and chairs were available.
- An outdoor area with boot canopy, impact absorbing surface complete with area for digging, kitchen and other interest areas was available to the side of the premises. The junior room opened on to the outdoor area.

(1)(b)

- There were suitable rest facilities on the premises, there was a supply of 2 stackable beds to provide a rest facility for children over 2 years of age attending. The registered provider advised that each child needing sleep or rest will have access to a stackable bed, but that currently there is no practice of sleep in the setting. Beds are provided and laid out daily but not used.

(3)

- The registered provider of this service ensured that a suitable, safe, and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service was provided on the premises and the person in charge advised that children have access to this daily.

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Part V – Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents provided morning snacks for children in line with the service’s healthy eating policy. The registered provider provided breakfasts and afternoon snacks which were varied and nutritious including cereal selections in the morning, and fruit, crackers, breadsticks, fruit, hummus and rice cakes for afternoon snack.
Requirement not met:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the registered provider had a healthy eating policy and a menu plan, it was observed that the main hot meal of the day was not sufficiently balanced and nutritious. The menu plan for full day care children comprised of the following main hot meals, toasted sandwiches (Monday), fish fingers and waffles (Tuesday), Pasta and pesto (Wednesday), Beans and Toast (Thursday) and Dried Chicken Flavoured Noodles (Friday). Three of the five meals were highly processed, convenience foods. These meals are therefore not sufficiently balanced, nutritious, or adequate to meet regulatory requirements.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider responded to state that a new menu plan was now in place and a copy of this plan was submitted as evidence.
Summary Comment:	The response from the registered provider meets the regulatory requirements of this regulation.

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.

Requirement met:	The registered provider partially met the regulatory requirements.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrance to the service was by means of two entrance doors which were adequately secured. • Internal doors were secured on the day of inspection. • Storage facilities were inaccessible to children. • No cables were within reach of children on the day of inspection. • The outdoor area was suitably enclosed and secured without any observed hazards. • Bins were inaccessible. • There was a supply of thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, and individual use towels available in the children’s toilets.
Requirement not met:	<p>(1) The surface temperature of the oiled fired storage heaters was not controlled to maintain a safe temperature. The temperature of the storage heater surface in the senior playroom was 71.4 degrees Celsius, in excess of the maximum safe temperature of 50 degrees. This may present a risk of burning a child.</p> <p>(2) Skirting boards and architraves in the children’s toilets were partially finished and painted. Some tiling was also missing in the children’s toilets. These issues compromise the cleaning of the sanitary facilities and may lead to the spread of infection.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(1) A radiator guard was installed to prevent a child having access to the surface of the radiator. Photographic evidence of this guard was submitted by the registered provider.</p> <p>(2) The registered provider stated that the skirting boards, architraves, and tiling have been repaired and photographic evidence was submitted by the registered provider.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The response and evidence submitted by the registered provider was assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of this regulation.</p>

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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.

Requirement met:

- (1) The registered provider ensured one adult was trained in first aid for children and is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—
- (a) was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, one in each room and one for the outdoor area.
 - (b) It was available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

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.

Requirement met:

- (1) (a) The registered provider had a record for the fire drills, which were conducted monthly.
- (b) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept of the firefighting equipment. The service record indicated the fire extinguishers, and the fire alarm were maintained in October 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was on display at the fire points in the service.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The regulatory requirements were met. The setting has adequate insurance to cover 55 preschool children valid until 27 March 2024 for a full day care service.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

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

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

(b) From visual inspection the premises appeared safe and secure. An appropriate security system with a secured entrance doors to manage unauthorised entry and unsupervised exit of children from the service was in place.

(c) The service was adequately heated, and lighting was sufficient. The playrooms were a comfortable temperature, between 18 and 22 degrees Celsius. The heating system was oil fired storage heating. Natural lighting was supplemented with artificial lighting.

(d) The premises was adequately cleaned and was presented in a clean and hygienic condition.

Requirement not met:

(a) From visual inspection the premises did not appear of sound and stable structure, well-finished and weather tight. There was evidence of dampness in each of the two playrooms around the walls, windows, and doors. There was evidence of dampness and mould growth in the sanitary areas. Plaster was crumbling and peeling around the windows in the Senior playroom. It is acknowledged that this is a Heritage building, however, the dampness and

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	<p>mould growth may indicate issues with the structure or ventilation of the premises.</p> <p>(e) There were inadequate toilet facilities for the proposed number of children. There were sufficient toilet facilities for 44 children, with 5 children’s toilets and 4 sinks. A 5th toilet was installed without a sink. A ratio of 1 toilet and sink to 11 children is required, therefore a 5th sink is required for the proposed number of children to be accommodated.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(a) The registered provider responded to state that a dehumidifier was purchased and in daily use to address the dampness and mould. A receipt for the dehumidifier was submitted. The registered provider stated that the walls and around windows have been cleaned down and a protective cladding installed around the window areas. Photographic evidence of the cleaned down walls and window areas was submitted. Photographic evidence of the newly installed cladding was submitted by the registered provider on 19 February 2024.</p> <p>(c) The registered provider advised that a new combination toilet and wash basin has been purchased and a receipt forwarded as evidence. This was installed during February midterm break; photographic evidence was furnished on 19 February 2024.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The response and evidence submitted by the registered provider was reviewed and accepted as meeting the regulatory requirements of this regulation. The premises issues will be kept under review at the next inspection.</p>

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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.
- (4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—
- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and
 - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

Requirement met:

- (1) Adequate free floor space for the work, play and movement of preschool children was available according to the proposed numbers of children and their age groups.

- (2) The minimum floor space was in place as follows:

Room	Number of Children	Space Required	Space available
Senior ECCE	30 morning, 29 afternoon	55m ²	67m ²
Junior ECCE	22 morning, 17 afternoon	40m ²	40m ²
	Total Proposed 54		Sufficient for Morning ECCE period

(4) This service has sufficient space to accommodate a ratio of 1.818 m² per child during the sessional period of the ECCE and reverting to 2.3m² per child after this period accommodating 54 children in the morning and 46 in the afternoon (Post ECCE).

However, the change in numbers cannot be approved based on space, considering the matters outstanding with the premises and sanitary facilities.