

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC181		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Heronswood Childcare Montessori		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Holy Well National School, Church Road, Carrigaline, Co. Cork		
<b>Eircode:</b>	P43X957		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mary Cleary		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	13/09/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	21	PM n/a
<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

Heronswood Childcare Montessori is situated in an urban setting on the grounds of the Boys National School at Carrigaline, Co Cork. A service is provided to children aged between 2 and 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.10 and 12.10 hours. A registered school age service is also provided. The service is carried out in a prefabricated single storey unit with 1 care room named the Orange room, which was specifically adapted as a childcare service.

### Staffing

There are 2 adults attached to the service and 1 adult who is on a training course. The registered provider is not service based. Each of the 2 adults that work directly with the children has a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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.

### Additional Information

There were no records available on file to demonstrate that any of the adults had up to date training in first aid. Therefore, an Immediate Action Notice was issued during the inspection by the inspector.

The registered provider responded on 13 September 2023 with evidence that staff have since been booked to attend training in First Aid Response (FAR).

### 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*

*(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)
- (a)(b) There were 6 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 3 adults.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 3 adults.
- (d) Not applicable as no adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than 6 months.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of 2 of the adults. The third adult was attached to a training college and was in the process of obtaining a childcare qualification.

## 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 person in charge 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 and an unpaid adult in attendance with 21 early years children. The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained.

### 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**

- There were key adults assigned to the children who comforted and listened to the children respectfully as they the children carried out their activities.
- The children participated in small group activities of their own choice such as jig saw play, block building, colouring or home play with dolls and could freely rotate between the activities as they chose.
- The children sat and chatted in groups around 3 child sized tables whilst eating their mid-morning snack. It was noted that the adults chatted and laughed with the children as they provided them with drinks of water and plates.
- The service operated in partnership with parents and guardians. The inspector was informed during the inspection that the children attending this service had previously attended its sister service and that this service catered for them once they reached the age of 3 years. The service provided an Induction Day at the premises during June that was available to all parents and guardians to attend.
- General information was shared daily with parents and guardians by means of emails, social applications and by notices which were displayed near the drop off and collection door and gate.
- Parents and guardians were spoken to informally daily at drop off and collection times and formal meetings were arranged as requested by them regarding their respective child.
- The staff carried out daily morning meetings to plan care and discuss issues. The inspector was informed that the serviced adhered to a similar plan of care as its sister services.
- The service operated in a prefabricated structure that was situated on the grounds of a National School and the service had developed close links with the National School management.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- The food eaten by the children for their daily snacks was provided by the children’s respective parents or guardians.
- On the day of inspection, the children’s mid-morning snacks consisted of either sliced fruit or raw vegetables, crackers, ham or cheese sandwiches/wraps, yogurt and water to drink.
- A jug of water and cups were provided, and the children’s individual water bottles were always available to the children as they wanted them.

### 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:

- A detailed cleaning programme was in place, and it was noted during the inspection that the premises, equipment and play materials were kept in clean condition.
- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out at the premises, before eating, after toileting, messy play and after outdoor play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towels that were stored in wall mounted dispensers. The water temperature was recorded at 35.5°C during the inspection.
- A fridge was available on the premises for the storage and safe management of the children’s perishable food.

- The children’s bags, coats and personal belongings were all stored on labelled wall hooks positioned in the main foyer.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used tissues and paper towels.

### 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

(2)

(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available on the premises that was stored on a high shelf out of children’s reach.

(b) The first aid box was always available on the premises.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)

There was no First Aid Response (FAR) certificate available on file to demonstrate that any of the adults had up to date FAR training. The FAR certificate on file in respect of 1 of the adults had expired on 22 November 2022.

Also, there was no evidence available on file to demonstrate that an adult with up-to-date training in first aid was always available to the children. Therefore, an Immediate Action Notice was issued on site during the inspection.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)

Several adults attached to the services completed FAR training from a reputable company during September 2023. An adult with FAR training will always be on this premises.

### Supporting documentation submitted

(1)

Correspondence from the reputable company detailing the names of the adults attached to the Heronwood Childcare services that recently completed FAR training was submitted to the inspector.

### Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the registered provider relating to the non-compliance was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

## 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.*

*(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*

- (c) an authorised person.*

*(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 up to April 2023 available on file.

(b) There were records to demonstrate that the wired smoke alarm was serviced on 01 March 2023.

(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 a wall in the care room.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)(2)(c)

There were no records of monthly fire drills available on file since 19 April 2023. It was acknowledged that the service was closed due to summer leave during July and August, but records of monthly fire drills carried out during May and June were not available for review by the inspector.

(1)(b)(2)(c) No record regarding an annual service of the firefighting equipment was available on file for review. It was recorded that the fire equipment was last serviced during March 2022. Also, the person in charge informed the inspector during the inspection that a record of the number and type of firefighting equipment was not maintained or available on file for review.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(a)(2)(c)

A staff meeting was carried out at the service since the inspection out and it was discussed that going forward, a fire drill must be carried out monthly. A fire drill was carried out at the premises on 18 September 2023.

(1)(b)(2)(c)

The fire equipment was serviced during September 2023 by a reputable company. A list of the fire equipment is now available on file.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(a)(2)(c)

A photocopy of the record detailing that a fire drill was carried out at the service on 18 September 2023 was submitted to the inspectorate for review.

(1)(b)(2)(c)

Documentation was submitted to the inspectorate demonstrating that the fire equipment was serviced since the inspection by a reputable company.

### Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the registered provider relating to the non-compliances was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

## 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 which was 22 per session, the start date, which was 28 November 2022, the end date, which was 27 November 2023, the category of service covered which was sessional 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.