

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC275
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Name of Service:	Morning Glory Montessori
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Address of Service:	Apt. 1, Riverstick, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P43 H284
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Name of Registered Provider:	Margaret Buckley
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	08/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Administration Office, St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurranabraher, Cork. T23X440.
Inspection undertaken by:	D Cotter
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).

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Description of service

Morning Glory is a sessional service that also caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) at the premises. The service caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age at the premises each morning from 9am to 12pm. The service operates out of a room positioned on the ground floor of a residential and commercial building that is situated in the village of Riverstick, Co Cork. It is a privately operated service and has an outdoor play area provided to the front of the care room.

Staffing

Morning Glory service is carried out by the three adults, including an adult that can be called upon as a relief worker. Each of the three adults 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

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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 providers, 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.*

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(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 has ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge as well as the deputy person in charge were on the premises for the duration of the inspection. The roster for the service demonstrated that at least one of these people were always on site.
- (2)
- (a), (b), (d) & (4) Following a review of the previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider it was determined that no new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. Garda vetting for the 3 staff members whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.
- (c) The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, the following policies were examined:

- Statement of purpose and function.

The above policy was observed to contain the relevant details to meet regulatory compliance.

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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 staff working directly with the children.

(3).

On the morning of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations. There were two adults available in the care room to work directly with the 10 children in attendance aged between 3 and 5 years.

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:

(a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;

(b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;

(c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;

(d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

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Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider has ensured that records were available in relation to points (a) to (h). A notice board displayed all information required in relation to the service and a detailed attendance book in relation to point (h) was available to the inspector for review.

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:

- On the day of inspection, the staff working with the children were sensitive and responsive in their approach of and care of the children.
- Children had access to water at all times throughout the inspection. The children's water bottles were on a low-level shelf within the care room.
- Children's toileting needs were attended to promptly and staff assisted children when necessary.
- Staff were observed to encourage independence. For example, staff were observed to encourage children to put on their own coats and to wash their own hands.
- It was evident through observation on the day of inspection that children's voices were listened to, and children were able to communicate their needs to attentive adults. For example, it was observed that several different activities had been set up such as sand play, construction play, role play activities and pre-mathematics activities. Children were free to choose which ever activity they wanted, and staff went between the activities to support children in their play.
- Staff followed the interests of the children and evidence of this was visible in the service. For example, one of the children was speaking about their new sibling and the staff set up a baby washing station so children could extend their learning

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- Children were observed to eat healthy and nutritious food for their mid-morning snack. Examples of lunches available on the day included fruit, vegetables, crackers, yogurts and cheese.
- Crockery was available for the children to use.
- A supply of non-perishable food was available in the event that a child had no lunch or required more.
- Staff reported that children were free to eat outside of designated mealtimes.
- The mealtime was observed to be a fun, relaxed time. For example, one child stood and sang a song they had been learning about caterpillars and one of the staff was observed to read the jokes printed on the back of children's yogurts while opening them.
- A rest area had been established in a quieter area of the care room. This consisted of a canopied area with soft matting, cushions and books.
- The room was well laid out to encourage the children to move freely between the interest areas.
- Children were observed to play in the outdoor area on the morning of inspection.

Supporting relationships:

- A private messaging group had been set up to communicate directly with parents.
- Staff reported that there was an open-door policy and parents/guardians were free to call to the service if necessary.
- The environment further supported this with pictures of the children and their families on the family wall.
- Transitions within the daily routine were handled well. Children were given five-minute warnings before the change of an activity. The service also utilised timers and "now and then" strategies to reinforce the daily routine. For example, when a child wanted to go outside, they were told "We'll do circle time now and then go outside." This increases children's sense of security and wellbeing.
- After circle time each child was afforded time to tell their news or sing a song if they wished. No child was rushed or hurried. This added to their sense of self and ensured that each child understood that their voice was listened to and respected.
- Staff appeared to work well together. For example, while one staff member brought the children to wash their hands, the other staff member washed down the tables before lunch.
- Staff reported having regular informal meetings and less frequent formal staff meetings.
- Staff spoke of their engagement with the local Childcare Committee.

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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 main entrance had been secured, and this ensured no unauthorised entry to, or exit from, the service.
- All play equipment appeared to be in a clean state and of good repair.
- Heavy equipment and furniture had been anchored to prevent them falling onto a child.
- All electrical cables or flexes were in good repair and out of reach of children.
- Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children.
- Visibility strips had been placed on low level glass doors.
- The outdoor area had been securely fenced to prevent unauthorised entry to or from the area.
- The children's bags and coats were stored safely off the floor.

Infection Control:

- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before eating, after using the toilet, playing outside and messy play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels.
- There were detailed cleaning records available for the inspector to review.
- Windows had been opened to aid natural ventilation.
- The sanitary area was ventilated through the use of a mechanical system.
- Tables were sanitized before the children had their lunch.
- Perishable food for the children's lunch was refrigerated.

Administration of Medication:

- On the day of inspection, it was reported that no child was in need of medication on a regular basis.
- There were auto injectors available for two children, along with detailed emergency care plans.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were kept free and unobstructed.
- Wall tethered fire extinguishers were available in the care room.

Part VI - Safety

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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 registered provider has ensured that there are three adults trained in first aid response (FAR) and that at least one of these staff member is always accessible to the children. This was evidenced through the staff roster.

(2).

(a)(b) The registered provider has ensured that the care room is equipped with a suitably stocked first aid box which was easily accessible to staff should it be needed by the children at all times.