

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC275		
Name of Service:	Morning Glory Montessori		
Address of Service:	Apt. 1, Riverstick, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P43 H284		
Name of Registered Provider:	Margaret Buckley		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	04/12/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM n/a

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

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. 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 4 adults, including an adult that can be called upon as a relief worker. Each of the 4 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 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, 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 registered provider who was the named 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) There were 6 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 4 adults.
- (b) There were 2 reference and required validation on file from sources other than past employers.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of each of the 4 adults.
- (d) Police vetting was available in respect of 1 adult that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the 4 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 day of the inspection there were 3 adults working with 20 children present. The ratio of staff to children exceeded the requirements.

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

- The 3 adults that were on duty spoke reassuringly and kindly to the children in their care.
- Each child's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way by the adults. They assisted and supported the children as they carried out activities such as crafting Christmas decorations out of partially blown-up balloons and learning Christmas poems and songs.
- The 3 adults instilled confidence in the children by offering them praise and positive reassurance for tasks well done such as tidying up after the painting activity and after eating.
- It was noted that the children played together easily, and engaged in activities with their peers such as farm animal play or imaginary play in the large cardboard box that they were designing and decorating as a house.
- The service operated in partnership with parents and guardians. General Information regarding the services' facilities and activities was provided to them by means of a parent's handbook.
- General Information was shared daily with participating parents and guardians by means of social media and by a notice board which was displayed beside the main entrance door.
- 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 service carried out weekly team meetings and records of the meetings were available in the services' diary for review by the inspector. The monthly plan of activities was openly displayed on a white board in the care room.
- The registered provider communicated as required with the Cork County Childcare Committee and Early Childhood Ireland.

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 mid-morning snack 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, chopped vegetables, ham or cheese sandwiches, yogurt and water to drink.
- The children’s individual water bottles were stored on a low shelf in the care room and were always available to the children as they wanted them.
- Crockery was provided to each child during their mid-morning snack break.
- Eating time was promoted as an enjoyable social occasion and the children and adults chatted together and to each other creating a happy and relaxed atmosphere.
- The registered provider informed the inspector that at the start of each term, the adults reminded the parents about providing healthy food for the children’s mid-morning breaks.

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 door leading into the care room was kept secured to prevent the unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The outdoor play area was secured by high fencing and a secured gate to prevent the unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.

- The doors leading into the storeroom, the stairwell and the adult toilet were all kept secured and these areas were not accessible to the children.
- The high counter and secured half door that led to the kitchen/office area ensured that the children had no access to this area.
- The cleaning agents were stored in high presses in the secured kitchen out of children's reach.
- The low-level glass panels fitted to the front of the care room had been painted with fairy tale images.
- The radiators in the care room were provided with protective covers.
- The 4 ceiling lights were provided with protective covers.

Infection Control:

- Daily and weekly cleaning templates were available for review, and it was noted that the premises, equipment and play materials were kept in clean and good condition.
- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before eating and after toileting, painting and outdoor play.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and a basket of paper towels were available close to the wash hand basins. The water temperature was recorded at 20.4°C during the inspection.
- Children's bags and belongings were stored off the floor on shelving units.
- The children's coats were kept on individual wall hooks.
- A fridge was available in the care room for the storage of the children's perishable food.
- Apron covers were available for the children as they participated in painting activities to protect their clothing from spillages.
- A box of paper tissues was available for any child who required a tissue for their nasal hygiene.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used tissues and paper towels.

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 daily which was 22. The start date, which was 28 March 2023, the end date, which was 27 March 2024, the category of service covered which 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