

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC276
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Name of Service:	Mount Eden Montessori
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Address of Service:	14A Mount Eden Road, Gurrabraher, Co Cork
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Eircode:	T23 PV06
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Name of Registered Provider:	Janette Crowley
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	12/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM	6
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 13 Market Square, Mallow, Co Cork, P51 DD5Y
Inspection undertaken by:	N O'Donoghue
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

Mount Eden Montessori is a privately operated sessional service, that is registered to cater for children aged 2 to 6 years. This includes children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, which is facilitated from 8.30am to 11.30am and from 12.00pm to 3.00pm, each Monday through to Friday, over 38 weeks annually. Montessori pedagogy is implemented.

The early years setting is situated in a residential area of Gurrabraher, on the north side of Cork city. The service is provided from a single storey premises, which consists of one care room, with adjacent sanitary facilities. The children have the use of an outdoor play area, at the front of the building.

Staffing

There were three adults attached to the service. This included the registered provider who is service based, a volunteer and an emergency contact.

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. 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 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 designated person in charge on the premises on the day of inspection. The person in charge operated the service single-handedly.

(b) A person in charge was on the premises at all times during the operation of the service.

(c) There was a clearly identified management structure in the service. This included the person in charge, emergency worker and volunteer.

(2) Three staff work in the service; all three staff files were open to inspection.

(a) Of the six references required, five validated references were from past employers.

(b) Of the six references required, one validated reference was available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all three staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not deemed to be required for the three adults working in the service.

(3) All procedures specified under paragraph (2) were carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4) Two staff held relevant qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at least at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times.

(3) On the day of inspection, the adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of the regulation.

- In the morning session, there was one staff working with seven children aged between 3 years and 11 months and 5 years and 2 months of age, all attending sessional care.
- In the afternoon session, there was one staff working with six children aged between 2 years and 9 months and 3 years and 9 months of age, all attending sessional care.

(8)

(c) The registered provider ensured that an adult familiar with the operation of the service and was available to assist in operating the service, was available at all times within a close distance of the service in the event of an emergency.

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

Supporting relationships:

- Staff spoke with children at their level, in a calm and relaxed tone. Staff used positive reinforcement language with the children.
- Children engaged in parallel play and were observed to check in on their friends and include them in play.
- Staff were observed meeting with parents at the end of the session, updating them on the activities of the day. The staff explained to the inspector that they communicate regularly with the parents, this occurs at collection and drop-off times.
- During mealtime staff sat at the table and engaged in social conversations with the children.

Programme of activities:

- The service developed their programme of activities through an emergent, child-led and Montessori based pedagogy.
- Children expressed their interests and staff developed their interests further through group activities, stories and art activities.
- Short-term, medium-term and long-term activity plans were available on day of inspection. This was corresponding with the documented group activities displayed in the service.
- Transitions were managed well by staff and children transitioned between activities smoothly. Staff alerted the children of five minutes to the end of the activity and were given time to wind down and prepare themselves for the next task.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service ensured there was adequate equipment available for the number of children attending the service. The service had additional toys and materials on the premises. It was observed on day of inspection that the service provides a number of sensory activities including water play, sand play and modelling dough.

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 internal and external doors of the service were secured and prevented children from exiting the premises and unauthorised persons accessing the service.
- Toys and equipment assessed appeared in good condition and well maintained.
- Blind cords were securely out of reach of children.
- The openable windows were out of reach of children.

Infection control:

- Windows were open for natural air ventilation.
- Staff were observed cleaning tables between activities and prior to mealtimes.
- Regular handwashing was observed throughout the day. Staff were observant of handwashing and ensured children's hands were clean from dirt from outdoor play.
- Pedal operated bins were observed in the main room and sanitary facilities.

Administration of medication:

- No administration of medication was observed on the day of inspection. Discussion with staff ensured staff were aware of the correct process for administering medication in the event it was required.

Fire safety:

- Fire exits were clear of any obstruction and were clearly identified in the room.
- Fire equipment was available in the event they were required.

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 registered provider ensured that staff trained in First Aid Response (FAR) were at all times immediately available to the children.

(2) The first aid box was assessed on day of inspection and was fully stocked.

(a) The first aid box was stored up high, out of reach of children and easily accessible to staff.

(b) The first aid box was accessible to staff in the event that a child may require it.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The regular monthly fire drills were displayed on the notice board. The most recent fire drill was held on 25 February 2026.
- (b) A list, which detailed the number and type of firefighting equipment was maintained on file. The records indicated that the smoke detection system and fire alarm system was serviced on 20 October 2025 and the firefighting equipment was serviced in January 2026.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedure, outlining details of the steps to be followed in the event of a fire, was displayed throughout the premises. The fire assembly points were clearly signposted.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certificate for the service was furnished to the inspector. The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- The contact details for the insurance provider.
- The name and address of the service insured.
- The categories of insurance cover for the service.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27 March 2026.