

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC276
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Mount Eden Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	14A Mount Eden Road, Gurranabraher, Gurranabraher, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	T23 PV06
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Janette Crowley
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	12/10/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	6	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurranabraher Cork
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	D Prendergast
<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>	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 two to six 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

The registered provider, a volunteer and an emergency person are attached to the service. Two major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education have been attained by the registered provider, along with the Leadership for Inclusion in the Early Years special purpose award.

### 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 the 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 and the 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 registered provider was in charge of the early years service. A person had also been assigned to attend the setting and provide assistance, in the event of an emergency.
- (b) The registered provider was on duty for the duration of the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records of all three of the adults attached to the service were reviewed and the following information was noted:
- (a) Three past employer references had been obtained, with suitable records of validation.
- (b) Three written and validated references from sources other than previous employers, were on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the three adults.
- (d) Documentary evidence indicated that police vetting from other jurisdictions was not required for any of the adults.
- (4) The registered provider has achieved three awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications and copies of said qualifications were available on file. A qualification was not required in respect of the volunteer or the emergency contact person.

### 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) The registered provider was available to the children throughout the period of inspection.
- (3) A sessional category service was provided and the children who attended were aged three to four and a half years. The correct adult to child ratio was maintained. The registered provider was working directly with the six children who were present in the morning.
- (8)
- (c) As the service was operated single handedly on the day of the inspection, the registered provider had identified a second person, who was available to provide assistance, should an emergency arise.

## 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:*

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

### Compliance Information

(1)  
 (h) Daily attendance records in respect of the children were maintained. A sample of six weeks attendance was reviewed and deemed satisfactory.

## 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:

- A snack break was facilitated for the children during the morning sessional service. This took place at 10.45am and was observed to be a sociable occasion, in a calm, unhurried environment. This practice encouraged the children to take their time while eating.
- The children could freely access the adjoining sanitary facility in an independent manner.
- A supply of tissues was within easy reach for the children, who were observed to attend to their own respiratory hygiene, as required.
- Children's need for rest and relaxation was met through the provision of a clearly defined cosy area within the care room.
- As the children explored various materials and participated in the daily routine, the adult was observed to offer them encouragement and reassurance and consistently communicated in a warm, caring manner.
- The layout of the care room allowed for the free movement of the children, as they played within their environment.

## 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

- Low level tables and chairs were available to support the children’s participation in table top activities and mealtime routines.
- The care room was furnished with low set, well-resourced display units, which afforded the children ease of access to a range of materials. Interest items included Montessori equipment, such as shape insets and dressing frames, a play kitchen, books, hand held vehicles, art and craft materials and jigsaws.
- A combination of walls, wooden fence panels and a secured gate surrounded the outdoor play space and there was gravel and a slabbed footpath underfoot. Plants, flowers, decorative ornaments and a fairy garden created an inviting space for free play activities. Equipment included a playhouse, a sand tray, stepping logs and mounted abacuses, along with seating. Additional materials such as hand-held vehicles and plastic bricks were also held in storage.

## 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 Healthy Eating policy in place was suitable for the category of service provided.
- Snacks for the children were supplied by their parents and guardians. Examples on the day of inspection included sandwiches, wraps, bananas, grapes and water or juice to drink.
- The registered provider advised that if a child became hungry outside of the designated mealtimes, a supply of snacks was usually available in the service. Alternatively, children could choose something to eat from their own lunchboxes.

## 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:

- An intercom system was in place on the main entrance gate to the service. This ensured that the risk of unauthorised access was minimised. The entrance/exit door of the service was also maintained secure when not in use.
- The door to the staff toilet facility was secured, with the key stored on a high-level wall hook.
- Visibility markings were provided on the glass panel door in the care room.
- The surface temperature of the radiators was maintained below 50°C, as required.
- A restrictive opening device was in place on a low-level cupboard in the care room, which contained potentially hazardous items.

##### Infection Control:

- The wash hand basins in the service were equipped to facilitate hygienic handwashing; warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels were in place. Supervised handwashing was observed before the mid-morning snack.
- Cubby shelf storage was utilised to store the children's bags.
- Open windows in the care room provided a regular supply of fresh air. A high-efficiency particulate absorbing (HEPA) filter was also in use.

##### Administration of Medication:

- The administration of medication was not observed. Further to this, the inspector was advised that none of the children were in receipt of medication.

##### Safe Sleep:

- The children were not observed to sleep during the sessional service.

##### Fire Safety:

- There were no fire safety concerns noted.
- Fire exit doors were maintained free from obstruction.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

A record of insurance cover for an early years sessional service was available, with an expiration date of 27 March 2024.