

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC314		
Name of Service:	Old Brewery Montessori School Ltd.		
Address of Service:	Old Brewery Road, Clonakilty, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P85 XY82		
Name of Registered Provider:	Canice O'Regan		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	14/11/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	38	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

Old Brewery Montessori School Ltd is a registered sessional service that is open from Monday to Friday between 9:30 and 12:30pm and includes the children attending Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years. Old Brewery Montessori School Ltd is based on the ground floor of an old disused brewery that was adapted for use as an early years' service. There are apartments for residential accommodation overhead. The premise comprises of an entrance hall, 3 care rooms, a staff kitchen and an office area. The children have access to a secure, fully enclosed outdoor area to the front of the building.

Staffing

There are 8 adults attached to the service including the registered provider and each of the adults holds 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, 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 provide who was 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) There were 13 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 8 adults attached to the service.
 - (b) There were 3 references and required validations available on file from sources other than past employers.
 - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 8 adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was available on file in respect of 2 adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework or letter of eligibility from the department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) was available on file in respect of each of the 8 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 morning of the inspection there were 8 adults working with 38 children present. The ratio of staff to children exceeded the requirement of 1:11.

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)

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The 3 care rooms namely the Montessori A, Montessori B and Montessori C rooms were noted to be bright and comfortable and were in readiness for the children's use.
- The Montessori A care room was divided into 2 areas by a sliding door and the office area was positioned off this care room.
- Each of the 3 care rooms were furnished with child sized tables, chairs, low shelving, and a variety of play equipment that was maintained in good condition and met the needs of the children.

- Varied areas of interest were set up in each care room such as an attractive rest area, home area, dress up section, a playhouse, arts and crafts areas, tabletop activities, games, library rack and wooden natural play materials. The play materials and equipment such as the dolls' house, push trucks and farm animals were all set up at a child's height to promote independent visibility and easy access by the children themselves.
- The outdoor area that was positioned in front of the main entrance door was provided with high fencing and a secured gate. It was provided with a roof covered area and a den that the children could retreat to and participate in imaginary play with their peers. There were low tables set up with toys such as a doll's house and board games. There were water play trays, a sand pit and ride on equipment all easily available to the children. The adults supported the children with opportunities to be creative and imaginative during their free play activities.
- The walls in each of the 3 care rooms were decorated with craftwork and free style paintings carried out by the children themselves such as flowers, trees, winter scenes, space rockets and cars.
- Items and colourful clothing from India were displayed in each care room as the children had been learning and immersing themselves in the Indian culture, food and traditions. Some of the staff had dressed in the traditional Indian costumes for the day and the inspector was informed that the children were going to experience dressing up in Indian costumes the following day.
- There were 5 toilet cubicles for children's use and 2 toilet cubicles for use by the adults available on the premises.
- There was a comfortable soft rest area consisting of padded mats or a couch in each care room for any child that required a rest or some quiet time.
- A quiet area off the corridor had been developed into a sensory area and was provided with calm lighting that reflected stars. A water feature, soft toys and calming music were all available in this area that was used as a calming space for any child that required it.

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:

- Detailed daily and weekly cleaning templates used by the service were available for review, and it was noted that the premises, equipment and play materials were all kept in clean and good condition.
- Regular handwashing by the children in each of the 3 care rooms was carried out before eating and after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper dispensers. The water temperature was recorded at 25.4°C during the inspection.
- The children's bags and belongings were stored on individual hooks positioned along the corridor or in their respective care room.
- Disposable paper tissues were available in each care room for any child who required a tissue to facilitate their nasal hygiene. Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used tissues and paper towels.
- Apron covers were available for the children to protect their clothing from spillages and stains whilst participating in messy play or painting activities.
- There were 2 large fridges available off the main corridor for the storage of the children's perishable food.

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 service provided evidence that 1 adult had up to date training in first aid response (FAR) and that this adult was always on the premises. It was also acknowledged that the records demonstrated that 3 other adults had training in paediatric first aid and 2 adults had training in first aid.

(2)

(a) There was a fully equipped first aid cabinet available in the main hallway which was wall mounted high out of children's reach.

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

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 demonstrated that the service was adequately insured. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of children covered which was 66, the start date, the end date, 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.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

(e) There were an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins available on the premises. There were 5 toilet cubicles situated throughout the premises for use by the early years children. There were 2 toilet cubicles for adult use that were each furnished with a toilet and a wash hand basin. Each wash hand basin was provided with liquid soap, paper towels and thermostatically controlled hot water for hand washing. The water temperature was recorded at 25.4°C during the inspection. A nappy changing unit was provided only for use by any child with additional needs and was not routinely available. Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used paper towels and used tissues.