

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC379		
Name of Service:	Barbara Gaffney Montessori School		
Address of Service:	St. Columba's Girls School, Douglas West, Douglas, Cork, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	T12 WK3D		
Name of Registered Provider:	Barbara Gaffney		
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	15/06/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM 6
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	Not Applicable
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Description of service

Barbara Gaffney Montessori School operates from a 1 storey prefabricated structure that is situated on the grounds of St Columbas' Girls School in Douglas, Cork. It provides sessional and part-time care to early years children aged between 2 and 6 years and an after-school service to school going children. The service is registered to operate a morning and an afternoon session between the hours of 8.30am and 3pm Monday to Friday. There are 2 care rooms namely Room 1 and Room 2 and there is a designated outdoor play area provided to the front and side of the prefabricated structure.

Staffing

There were 6 adults present on the morning of the inspection and 2 adults during the afternoon that worked directly with the early years children. The registered provider is not based at this premises but visited the service during the inspection to meet with the inspector.

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 inspections 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. A record displaying the names and positions of the adults was available in the main foyer.

(b) The person in charge was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider visited the service during the inspection and left prior to the closing meeting.

(2)

The person in charge confirmed that two adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 18 May 2021, therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.

(a) There were three references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the adults.

(b) There was one reference and required validation available on file from a source other than a past employer.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the two adults.

(d) Not applicable as neither of the two adults 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 was available on file in respect of each of the two 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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

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

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1)

The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the early years children.

(2)

On the morning of the inspection there were 28 early years children on the premises of which 6 of them remained on the premises up to 1.30pm. There were 6 adults on the premises during the morning and there were 4 adults on the premises during the afternoon of which 2 adults were working directly with the early years children. There was also 24 school going children on the premises after 2pm

(8)(a)

The person in charge ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises during the hours of operation. On the morning of the inspection, there were five adults on the premises by 8.15am when the service opened its doors and the roster demonstrated that there would be two adults on the premises at 4.30pm.

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:

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(k)

The service used an electronic application for the recording of any accidents, injuries and incidents regarding children which was available for review. During the inspection, the inspector assessed that there were 5 records available on file for the year 2023 so far. The records were completed in full and detailed the dates when the recorded incidents occurred and were dated when the adults maintained the records. The records showed an account of the events, the management and care provided, were signed by the adult maintaining the record and each of the records was co-signed by the respective child's parent/guardian.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(j)

The service was unable to show the inspector a template record or a completed record demonstrating that the adults had a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities regarding any medication administered to an early years child. It was acknowledged that the person in charge and registered provider informed the inspector that parental consent was obtained before administering any medication and that records were available to demonstrate this.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(j)

A template record regarding any medication to be administered to an early years child has since been developed and is now available for use by the service. This template will be completed by the adults each time a medication is administered to an early years child.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(j)

A copy of the template was submitted to the inspectorate for review on the 23 June 2023, and it referred to all the details required to be checked when a medication is administered.

Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the person in charge relating to the non-compliance was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

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 premises 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 fencing and a secured gate.
- The cleaning agents were stored on a shelf out of children's reach.
- All leads and flexes were kept out of children's reach.
- The window blind cords were secured by wall brackets.
- The water at the hot water taps was thermostatically controlled to no higher than 43°C.
- The first aid box was kept stored in the office area out of children's reach.
- Any medications and creams were kept stored in a separate box in the office area out of children's reach.
- The radiators were each provided with a safeguard.
- The high shelving units in each care room were securely anchored to the walls.
- The fire doors were maintained unobstructed.

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 two adults had training in first aid response (FAR) and one of these adults was always on the premises.

(2)
(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available which was stored out of children's reach in the office area.
(b) The first aid box was always available on the premises.

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 firefighting 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) There were records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service available on file. A fire drill was last carried out by the service on 23 May 2023.
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment and the wired smoke alarm were both serviced during December 2022.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the main foyer area and on the door to each of the 2 care rooms.