

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015CE045

Name of Service Ennis Montessori School

Address of Service: Cappahard Green, Tulla Road, Ennis, County Clare.

Email Address: ennismontessorischool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Davnet Dwyer

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Increase in children that can be accommodated from 60 to 75.

Proposed Number of Children: 75 children.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: 75 children.

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 60 to 75

Date of Inspection: 0 4 0 5 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: Ms Á. McCarthy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency,
Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis,
County Clare.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 75 Children
Date of Registration	11 th July 2023

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	Ennis Montessori School was established in 1998 and is located within a residential estate in Ennis, County Clare. The service facilitates sessional and full day care in Early Childhood Care and Education for children ranging in age from two to five years Monday to Friday from 08:30 to 18:00. School aged childcare is provided each afternoon.
Premises	The service is located in a purpose built, single storey building. The programme of care is facilitated in four care rooms. An enclosed outdoor play area is located to the side and rear of the premises. Each care room has access to a covered section outside. A gardening area is located to the front of the building.
Staffing	On the 4 th May 2023 the registered provider, the service manager and ten staff were present.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>
Additional Information	This service was found to be operating outside its registration status and operating the change prior to the approval of the Registration Office.
Acknowledgements	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.

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a)

On the 4th May 2023 the registered provider ensured that a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise is available.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)

The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6. The registered provider proposes to have seventy-five children aged 2.5 years to 5 years that will be supervised by ten staff which would meet the minimum ratio requirement.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day,

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or

Requirement met:

The requirements are met.

(1)(a) Both the indoor and outdoor environment was suitably resourced for the proposed number of children and provided a space where children could freely move.

Indoor area:

Four care rooms are available for use by the children. The care rooms are laid out around the needs of the children with designated areas of interest and low-level shelving, chairs and tables. The rooms were bright and spacious, and each designated area was suitably resourced. A large variety of play and educational materials and equipment are available to promote messy, sensory, creative, open ended, movement, dramatic and musical play. Interest areas were located in the rooms and included play shops, play kitchens, play office area, dress up areas, book corners, designated art and craft areas and relaxation areas with low level couches. A wide range of equipment was observed and included range of jigsaws, dolls, buggies and accessories, dolls houses, put together/ pull apart items and construction play, sorting items, pop up tent, train sets, play animals, bead runners and abacus. The available equipment supported all areas of development including gross motor, fine motor, cognitive and language development for the age range of the children present. The children had the freedom to move from the indoor and outdoor environment and select items that they wished to engage with during the inspection.

Outdoor area:

A large spacious area was available outdoors to the rear and front of the service. The area had an all-weather matted surface in parts, a decking area and concrete footpaths in other areas. Each room had access to an individual outdoor play area. Outdoor play in all weathers can be facilitated with the provision of a pop-up sheltered section.

The outdoor area was well resourced with play equipment that included a wooden kitchen and supporting play materials, a sand and water table, a slide, playhouses, activity centres and climbing frames. Ride on toys, outdoor tables and seating were available. Three planted sections with flowering plants and vegetables were available at the front of the service. A shed provided an area to store the equipment.

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	<p>(b) The service has designated areas for the children to rest and relax in each room. The rest areas in the care rooms included soft leather couches and cushions. Beds were available should children require a sleep during the day.</p> <p>(3)(a)</p> <p>The outdoor play area was suitably resourced and secured by a fence, concrete wall and a gate.</p>
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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.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>An adequate, nutritious, and varied bi-weekly menu was displayed in the service. The parents provide the snacks for the children and the service provides a healthy and nutritious meal at lunchtime and in the afternoon. Water and milk are offered as beverages at mealtimes and hydration stations were available in the rooms. The food is cooked at lunchtime by one staff member. The healthy eating policy is shared with the parents at the start of each year.</p>
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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.

Requirement met:

The requirements are met.

The registered provider ensured that all reasonable measures were taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children as follows:

- The entrance to the service was secured to prevent unauthorised persons entering and unsupervised children exiting the service.
- Running hot water at the wash hand basins, liquid soap, paper hand towels and lidded, lined pedal operated bins are available in the sanitary facilities and care rooms in the service.
- Cleaning agents were safely stored within secured room.
- Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the children proposed to attend the service.
- Flexes, cables or electric items were inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Fire exit routes and the passageways were clear of all obstructions in the event of an emergency.

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirements are met.

(1)

Two adults present are qualified in First Aid Responder (FAR) training and the certificates were available for inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

The first aid boxes are suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions in the service, available at all times for the children if necessary.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirements are met.

(1)(a)

A record was available in the service which demonstrated that monthly fire drills were completed. The last fire drill took place on the 17th of April 2023.

(b)

The firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system was certified as having been serviced on the 15th of March 2023.

(4)

Fire action notices demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the service.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

Evidence of current insurance cover was available for the type of service provision and 75 children attending the service and the expiry date noted was 27th of March 2024.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

The requirement was partially met.

(a)

Structure:

The building was established in 1998 and appeared to be in good condition.

(b)

Safe and Secure:

The internal and external entrances were secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.

(c)

Lighting:

The building was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Ventilation:

Windows in the four care rooms and the sanitary facilities could be opened to allow fresh air to circulate.

Heating:

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	<p>The service is heated by an oil operated underfloor heating system.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>Cleaning:</p> <p>The service was maintained in a clean condition and up to date cleaning schedules were available.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>Sanitary Facilities:</p> <p>The building accommodated seven toilets and wash hand basins for use by the children.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>The requirement is not met.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>A second toilet and wash hand basin were not available for the adults working in the service. Only one adult toilet and wash hand basin was available for the twelve staff that are proposed to be working in the service when a minimum of two are required.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>The registered provider provided the following response:</p> <p>A second staff sanitary facility is under construction at present in the outdoor area. It will contain one toilet and one wash hand basin for staff use. The work commenced on the 15th of May 2023 after consultation with the builders the previous week. On the 3rd of July 2023 a photograph of the completed construction project to include a new toilet and wash hand basin was sent to the Inspectorate.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>Based on the registered providers response and supporting evidence the requirement is met.</p>

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

Requirement met:

The requirements are met.

(1)

There is adequate clear floor space available for the proposed increase of children that can be accommodated on a full day and sessional care basis ranging in age from 2.5 to 5 years of age.

(2)

The minimum space regulatory requirement is met for the proposed increase to 75 children pre-school children in the service. The registered provider is aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7.

The clear floor space in the care rooms was noted to be as follows:

Aoife Room:	59.24 square metres
Aisling Room:	53.25 square metres
Cathal Room:	16.29 square metres
Cara Room:	46.18 square metres