

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015CE063

Name of Service Kathy's Montessori and Childcare

Address of Service:

Ballaghboy
Doora
Ennis
Clare
V95TEV8

Email Address: clune16@yahoo.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Kathy Clune

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

Proposed change:	Proposed increase from 20 to 22 preschool children.
Proposed Number of Children:	20 to 22 children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Change in Number of Children from 20 to 22 (Max 20 Part-Time)
Registered change:	Change in Number of Children from 20 to 22 (Max 20 Part-Time)

Date of Inspection:	1	5	0	8	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: A. McCarthy
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:

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

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Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part-Time, Sessional service for 22 (Max 20 Part-Time) children
Date of Registration	26 th August 2024

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	Kathy's Montessori and Childcare was established in 2014, on the outskirts of Ennis, County Clare. The service operates as a part-time and sessional service. Care and education will be provided for children ranging in age from two to six years, Monday to Friday from 08:15 to 13:00 and 12:15 to 15:15.
Premises	The service was converted from domestic use to a childcare facility. This building is a dormer structure with childcare provided in two open plan rooms on the ground floor. An enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the service.
Staffing	The registered provider will work directly with the children alongside two adults. The registered provider is the owner and provides an administrative role and works directly with the children.
Methodology	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. The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was 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.

Requirement met:	The requirement was met. (1)(a) The registered provider confirmed that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. Files for both these adults were reviewed.
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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.*
- (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,*

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)

The registered provider confirmed that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children. The registered provider and two adults will care for the twenty-one children enrolled in September 2024.

(8)(a)

The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults will be working in the service at all times.

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, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)

Both the indoor and outdoor environments were adequately resourced for the proposed number of children that would be attending in the service. Space was available where the children could freely move and play.

Indoor Environment:

The two care rooms are spacious and bright and laid out with low level tables and chairs. The rooms were equipped with an art station, a home corner, sensory areas that included sand and water play. Designated areas of interest include a dolls house, a playhouse and construction areas. Low level shelving units were available with containers that included puzzles, animal's, roads, figurines, dinosaurs, farm equipment, animals and wooden equipment. An area was available in each room with rugs and soft furnishings with a variety of reading materials.

Outdoor area:

The outdoor area consisted of all weather and natural grass surfaces. The perimeter was secured by fencing and a gate. Areas of interest included: a water table, a sand table, a construction bench, a slide, toy vehicles such as tractors, bikes, scooters, connector games, cars and trucks. A shed is available to store the equipment when not in use.

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(b)
 An adequate relaxation area was available for children to take a rest during the day.
 This area included low level beds, rugs, cushions and blankets.

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:

The requirement was met.

The registered provider demonstrated that adequate, nutritious and varied food and drink will be available for the proposed number of children attending the pre-school service. The registered provider confirmed that parents will provide the children’s lunches and beverages for the children attending on a sessional basis and part-time basis. Water and cups will be accessible to the children in each room. A refrigerator is available to store the children’s perishable food items. A healthy eating policy was available to inform practices and parents of the service’s procedure. The policy has been shared with all parents of the children that will be attending the service.

Part VI – Safety

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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 requirement was met.

- Internal and external access to the service was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children proposed to attend the service.
- Electric items were inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Warm running water was available at the wash hand basins in the three sanitary facilities. The water temperature was recorded as 36.8°C on the day on the inspection.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a locked cupboard and on high shelving out of the reach of children making them inaccessible to the 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 requirement was met.

(1)

The registered provider held an up-to-date record of First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was available and accessible in the care room for staff to use in the event of an emergency.

(b)

The first aid box will be available for use at all times.

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 requirement was met.

(1)(a)

A fire drill template record was available in the service. Records of completed monthly fire drills were available.

(b)

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Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the smoke alarm system and firefighting equipment. The most recent service of the smoke alarm system took place on the 21 July 2024 and the firefighting equipment was serviced on the 15 August 2024.

(4)

A fire action notice was available demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

An insurance certificate was available for the part-time service and had an expiry date for 27 May 2025.

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 met.

(a)

Sound and Stable Structure:

The proposed part-time and sessional day care service is located in a section of the owner’s home and appears visually to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

Safe and Secure:

	<p>The internal and external entry points were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.</p> <p>(c)</p> <p>Lighting:</p> <p>The service was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.</p> <p>Heating:</p> <p>The service was heated by means of gas central heating system. The ambient temperatures of the care room and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°Celsius on the day of inspection.</p> <p>Ventilation</p> <p>Natural ventilation is available in the care rooms and sanitary facilities; this was provided by means of openable windows and vents in the ceiling.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>Cleaned, Maintained and Repaired:</p> <p>The care rooms, sanitary facilities and equipment within were cleaned and maintained in good condition. A cleaning schedule was available.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>Sanitary Facilities:</p> <p>Two sanitary facilities were available for use by the children accommodating a toilet, a wash hand basin with running warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels and lined and lidded bin. The adult toilet is located on the owners home adjacent to the care rooms.</p>
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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.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)

The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the preschool service to support the children to freely play and move within the environment. The total available floor space measured 47.7m².

(2)

The space available 47.7m² will allow the proposed number of 20 preschool children attending on a part time basis.

(3)

The registered provider ensured that a minimum of 1.818 m² clear floor space is available for each child attending on a sessional basis. The space available 47.7m² will allow the proposed number of 22 preschool children attending the ECCE programme