

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015CW042

**Name of Service** Suantraí Montessori

**Address of Service:** Tinryland, Carlow, R93K2C9.

**Email Address:** suantraí21@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Frances Byrne

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed change:** Increase in number of children that can be accommodated from 44 to 55

**Proposed Number of Children:** 55

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** 53 children due to space requirements

**Registered change:** Change in number of children from 44 to 53 children

**Date of Inspection:** 2 5 0 7 2 0 2 5

**Inspection undertaken by:** Norma Thornton

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child & Family Agency, Athy Road, Carlow.

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Sessional Service for 53 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	01 August 2025

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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Suantraí Montessori is a sessional early years' service, located in the rural area of Tinryland, on the outskirts of Carlow town. The service currently is registered to provide a sessional service for 44 children, aged 2 to 6 years. The registered provider proposes to increase the maximum number of children that can be accommodated from 44 to 55 with an extension to the classroom on the first floor of the premises.
<b>Premises</b>	The service operates from a section of the registered provider's private dwelling, which is comprised of three classrooms, one classroom located on the ground floor level, one on the first floor and one on the second-floor level. An onsite outdoor play area, is provided in the garden at the back of the service.
<b>Staffing</b>	There are seven staff members employed in the service including the registered provider. All seven staff members hold qualifications in early childhood care and education ranging from Level 5 to Level 8 on the national Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) framework.
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>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 the inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when deciding 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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was 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.

The registered provider is the designated person in charge daily. A named person is proposed to deputise as required.

### 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 has been met.

The registered provider proposes to have 7 staff always working directly with the 53 children during the sessional service.

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.*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)(b)

Each of the three classrooms contain a variety of interest areas; desk top activities, art areas, role play areas, kitchen/home areas with appropriate play equipment, construction areas, soft rest and reading areas, Montessori equipment and inviting tabletop activities.

The equipment and toys in each classroom are stored on low-level shelving and are easily accessible to the children. There are appropriate tables and chairs provided for the children to sit and participate in tabletop activities and to comfortably enjoy their snacks and meals.

The soft rest areas are situated away from the main play areas and are furnished with low couches and soft cushions so children can avail of opportunities to opt out of activities, relax and rest.

(4) A large secure spacious green area is available at the back of the premises providing the children with an area to run and play in the many interest areas provided which include:

a playhouse, swing set, vegetable growing area, construction area and outdoor classroom.

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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:

The requirement is met.

A suitable healthy eating policy is in place in the service. This is communicated to parents at the time of their child’s registration and enrolment in the service.

Drinks stations will be provided for the children on a low-level accessible table in each classroom, for the children to have constant access to drinking water.

A refrigerator is available in each of the three classrooms, for the safe storage of children’s lunches and perishable food items.

### 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 requirement has been met.

General Safety.

1. A separate entrance door to the service is located to the side of the registered provider’s house. This was secured with a thumb lock internally and a call bell system is in operation for parents to ring, to gain access. All door and gate keys were readily available to the staff working in the service.

2. All emergency doors and the external emergency fire stairs in the service were clearly lit and unobstructed.

3. The registered provider demonstrated that a risk assessment of the outdoor play area was carried out and documented daily.

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4. There was a designated safe and secure storage area for cleaning materials and equipment, which was inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control.

1. Drinking water from the public water supply is readily available and accessible to the children and staff.

2. Liquid hand soap and paper hand towelling were observed in all children's toilets, located across the three floors, and in the designated staff toilet.

3. The registered provider demonstrated that there were daily cleaning schedules of the service facilities and equipment, which there was a documented record of.

### 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 has been met as evidenced by the following.

Documented evidence was available to demonstrate that three staff members had completed the approved first aid responder paediatric course, the certificates for which, were on file. The registered provider ensured that there was at least one member of staff trained in first aid responder always onsite, while the service was operating.

(2)(a) A first aid box was stored on the windowsill in the ground floor classroom and in obvious and accessible positions on the first floor and second floor classrooms.

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(b)The first aid boxes in each classroom were always available.

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a) The inspector observed that a record was available for the recording of monthly fire drills carried out in the service.

(b) A maintenance record was available for review, recording the maintenance of firefighting equipment and fire alarm system.

(4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in three points within the service. A fire assembly point was observed in the outdoor space at the back of the building.

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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 has been met.

The service has adequate insurance to cover a maximum of 55 children attending a sessional service.

### 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 has been met.

- (a) The registered provider confirmed that they knew of no structural defects and that the building is structurally sound.
  - (b) The entrance door to the service has a doorbell call system. The system in place adequately secures the entrance to the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the premises.
  - (c) The classrooms have large windows which provide natural lighting and ventilation. In each classroom there are long artificial ceiling lights, which are fitted with protective covers.
  - (d) The service was observed to be in a well maintained and clean condition on the day of inspection. A daily cleaning schedule is managed by the registered provider and staff.
  - (e) There were adequate sanitary facilities provided on each floor of the service for the proposed number of children to attend.
- There were two children’s toilets and two handwash basins on the ground floor for the 20 preschool children attending and on the first floor, for the proposed increase in number to 22 preschool children. On the second floor there was one child’s toilet and handwash basin for the 11 preschool children attending.

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A designated staff toilet was located off the corridor on the ground floor.

### 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.*
- (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 has been met.

- (1) The total clear floor space available in the premises for work, play and movement of the children attending the service is adequate for **53** preschool children attending a sessional ECCE service.
- (2) The following clear floor space was available:
- Ground Floor:** 36.72square metres providing adequate clear floor space for 20 children aged 2 to 5 years attending a sessional ECCE service.
- First Floor:** 45 square metres providing adequate clear floor space for 22 children aged 2 to 5 years attending a sessional ECCE service.
- Second Floor:** 26.8square metres providing adequate clear floor space for 11 children aged 2 to 5 years attending a sessional ECCE service.