

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: cjbplanthire@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Frances Byrne

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

Proposed change:	Increase in number of children that can be accommodated from 30 to 44. Addition of session, morning to morning and afternoon. Times of operation- 09:00 to 12:00 hours and 12:45 to 15:45 hours.
Proposed Number of Children:	Increase in number of children that can be accommodated from 30 to 44.
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Additional Morning & Afternoon Session 09:00 to 12:00 & 12:45 to 15:45. Increase in number of Children to 44.
Registered change:	Additional Morning & Afternoon Session 09:00 to 12:00 & 12:45 to 15:45. Increase in number of Children to 44.

Date of Inspection:	1	1	0	8	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by:	Norma Thornton
Title:	Early Years Inspector

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

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Additional Morning & Afternoon Session 09:00 to 12:00 & 12:45 to 15:45. Increase in number of Children to 44.
Date of Registration	25 th August 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	<p>Suantraí Montessori is a sessional early years' service, located in the rural area of Tinryland, on the outskirts of Carlow town. The service is currently registered to provide a sessional service for children, aged 2 to 6 years. Two sessional services from 09:00 to 12:00 and 09:30 to 12:30 hours, are currently offered. The registered provider proposes to open a third classroom on the second floor of the service and to offer an additional morning service from 09:00 to 12:00 and an afternoon session from 12:45 to 15:45 hours. With the proposed additional classroom, the registered provider proposes to increase the maximum number of early years children that can be accommodated from 30 to 44.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from a section of the registered provider's private dwelling, which is comprised of three classrooms, located on ground floor level, first and second floor level. There is an onsite outdoor play area, located in the garden at the back of the service.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are currently five staff employed in the service including the registered provider. It is proposed that additional staff will be employed for the new classroom.</p>
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</p>

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	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, 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	
<i>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—</i>	
<i>(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.</i>	
Requirement met:	The registered provider is the designated person in charge daily. A named person is proposed to deputise as required.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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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)—*
- (b) *a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and*
- (c) *a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

Requirement met:

(1) The registered provider shall ensure that there will be at least five qualified staff members working directly with the early years children.

(8)(b)(c) Not applicable, as the registered provider intends to always have at least two adults on the premises.

Summary Comment:

The requirement is met.

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.*
- (2) *A registered provider—*
- (b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*
- (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*
 - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*
- (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.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending 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 have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

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Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The proposed new classroom has been developed with clear identifiable areas of interest such as a home corner, rest area, construction corner, creative area, and small world figurine area for the children to use. Each of the areas was observed to be adequately resourced with a variety of age-appropriate play materials and equipment.</p> <p>(b) There was a designated rest area where the children could choose to relax and read. This was furnished with a child sized couch.</p> <p>(4) The outdoor play space is secured with a wooden fence and secured gate. The children have access to a playhouse, swing set and growing area.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement is met.</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 registered provider ensured that an adequate, suitable healthy eating policy was in place in the service. This is communicated to parents at the time of their child’s registration and enrolment in the service.</p> <p>Drinks stations will be provided for the children on a low-level accessible table for the children to have constant access to drinking water.</p> <p>A refrigerator was available in each of the three classrooms, for the safe storage of children’s lunches and perishable food items.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>General Safety.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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. 4. There was a designated safe and secure storage area for cleaning materials and equipment, which was inaccessible to the children. <p>Infection Control.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drinking water from the public water supply is readily available and accessible to the children and staff.
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	<p>2. Liquid hand soap and paper hand towelling were observed in the three children’s toilets, located across the three floors, and in the designated staff toilet.</p> <p>3. There were designated hand sanitising stations, located just inside the main entrance door and at several locations throughout the service.</p> <p>4. The registered provider demonstrated that there were daily cleaning schedules of the service facilities and equipment, which there was a documented record of.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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:	<p>The requirement has been met as evidenced by the following.</p> <p>(1) Documented evidence was available to demonstrate that three staff members had completed the approved first aid responder paediatric course, the certificates for which, was currently in date and on file. The registered provider ensured that there was at least one member of staff trained in first aid responder, was rostered to be always onsite, while the service was operating.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(b) The first aid boxes in each classroom were always available.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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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:	<p>(1)(a) The inspector observed that a record was available for the recording of monthly fire drills carried out in the service.</p> <p>(b) A maintenance record was available for review, recording the maintenance of firefighting equipment. The most recent date of service was recorded as having been in May 2023.</p> <p>(4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed within the service. A fire assembly point was observed in the outdoor space at the back of the building.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirement is contingent to the revised insurance certificate.

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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 inspector observed that the premises was clean and well maintained. The registered provider stated that there were no issues identified in relation to the building structure.

(b) The entrance door to the premises and the side entrance gate connecting the front of the building to the outdoor play area were well secured to prevent any children exiting unsupervised and to prevent any unauthorised persons from entering the service.

(c) The proposed new classroom was naturally lit with several large windows. The natural light available was supplemented by flush ceiling spotlights, each with a protective cover. All the windows could be opened to provide natural ventilation. Heating was provided by an oil fuelled heating system. Radiators were protected with secured radiator covers.

(d) There were cleaning schedules and records available demonstrating that the service was cleaned daily and maintained and repaired as required.

(e) There were four existing designated children's toilets, across the three floors, each with a hand wash basin, which were all either naturally or mechanically ventilated. A separate designated staff toilet was provided.

Summary Comment:

The requirement is met.

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.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1) There is adequate and clear floor space available in the proposed new classroom, located on the second floor, for up to 12 early years children to attend a sessional early years service.</p> <p>There is adequate and clear space in the first floor classroom, for up to 12 early years children to attend a sessional early years service.</p> <p>There is adequate and clear space on the ground floor for up to 20 early years children to attend a sessional early years service.</p> <p>(3) There is a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space available for each of the 44 children proposed to attend the service.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement is met.</p>