

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015DR035

Name of Service Ballinteer Montessori School

Address of Service: Unit 7, Block C, Nutgrove Office Park,
Rathfarnham, Dublin 16

Email Address: Ballinteermentessori@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Teresa Duggan

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

Proposed change:	Increasing the number of children from 48 to 54. Adding a full day care service to the existing part time and sessional service. Change of operating hours to 8.00am to 6.00pm.
Proposed Number of Children:	54
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	54
Registered change:	Change in service type from Part Time to Full Day Care Change in number of children to be accommodated from 48 to 54

Date of Inspection:	2	3	0	5	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: Fiona Carty
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter
Kilmainham, Dublin 8

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day / Part Time / Sessional Service for 54 Children
Date of Registration	30 th June 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	Ballinteer Montessori School operates from a purpose-built crèche facility located in an office park in Rathfarnham, Dublin 16. The registered provider currently operates four ECCE sessions between the hours of 09:00 to 12:30 and 13:00 to 16:00 for children ranging in age from 2 years 6 months to 5 years. The service also offers a part time service in addition to the ECCE sessional service. A car park area is located to the front of the building. The registered provider has the sole use of the building.
Premises	The premises comprises of two stories and includes 2 care rooms, a sleep room, sanitary accommodation and a kitchen for children and adults on the ground floor. The first floor comprises of two care rooms, sanitary accommodation for children and adults, a kitchen and an office. An outdoor play area is located to the front right-hand side of the premises. High level heavy duty fencing, and concrete walls secures the perimeter of both the outdoor area and the carpark.
Staffing	The service is currently staffed by 10 adults and includes the registered provider. Certification was provided to confirm that all adults had childcare qualifications at a minimum level 5 qualification. The registered provider has provided a service locally for over twenty years. In order to facilitate the change in service provision staff's hours of work will increase.
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 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, 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 has been met.

The service has designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider confirmed that an adequate number of adults will work directly in the pre-school service. There will be 10 adults caring for a maximum number of 54 children.

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) There are 3 care rooms currently in use in the service, Pre-Montessori, Montessori 1 and Montessori 2 room. All of the care rooms are bright, and the walls are decorated with colourful posters and children's artwork. All care rooms are fully equipped with a range of play materials and equipment suitable to the age and stage of the children

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attending each room. Low level furniture and shelving were available containing materials for creative and imaginative play. A rest area with books was available in each care room. Equipment from the Montessori Method of Education was available to children in all of the care rooms together with materials for construction and imaginative play. There is an additional sensory room available to the children that contained low level shelving with materials and soft furnishing. On the day of inspection this room was being used for a yoga activity. As per Regulation 30 this room will no longer be available for this purpose.

An additional sleep room was available on the ground floor.

(1)(b) There will be stackable beds and a designated sleep area for children attending the service aged 2 years. Additional suitable rest areas have been provided in all the care rooms.

(2)(b) The service has access to a suitable and safe large outdoor play area with mixed grass and cobble locked paving surfacing. There were 2 fully anchored secured climbing frames with slides available for the children. There was a storage shed in the garden for storage of additional toys and gardening equipment. There was 1 gate at the entrance to the outdoor area. There was no access or egress to the rear of the outdoor area which prevented unauthorised exit or entrance to the area.

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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 has been met.

A kitchen is available for the preparation and provision of food and drinks for children. The service provides a morning breakfast and afternoon snack together with a hot meal. The hot meal is supplied by an external catering company and is regenerated on site. A weekly rolling varied, and nutritious menu was in place. The snacks include fruit, cheese, crackers, and soup. Parents of children will provide their morning snack. Water and milk are available for the children to drink. All perishable food is stored in a refrigerator below 5° Celsius.

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.

External doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. The outdoor area was secured. There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste. Cleaning equipment and chemicals were in storage units which was inaccessible to the children. There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in the care rooms and sanitary areas. The kitchen was inaccessible to children.

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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 has been met.

(1) Certification was available for 2 of the adults who work in the pre-school service to confirm up to date first aid responder training with expiry dates of November 2023.

(2)(a) A suitable equipped first aid box was located in the office and smaller boxes were available in each care room.

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 has been met.

(1)(a) There was evidence that fire drills are practised monthly in the service, the last one was conducted on the 16th May 2023.

(1)(b) A recording system was available which confirmed the fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the service were last serviced on the 21st February 2023.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed. The fire assembly point was identified.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 48 children in daily attendance from 28th March 2023 to 27th March 2024. The registered provider stated if the proposed changes are approved the policy will be amended to reflect the change.

The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the increase in the number of children attending the service. Registration of the service is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

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:

(a) The service is located in a purpose built building in an office park in Rathfarnham, Dublin 16. Windows in the care rooms appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and were both positioned and opened above child height. The registered provider confirmed that there are no structural defects with the premises.

(b) The exit from the care rooms to outside was secured and opened only from the inside. There was a coded magnetic locking system in place. The outdoor area was secured with high level walls and fencing.

(c) Openable windows are provided in all the care rooms for both natural ventilation and natural day light. The fluorescent light fittings in rooms are covered with shatterproof diffusers.

(e) There are two nappy changing facilities in the service. There are 2 toilets and two wash hand basins located in a corridor outside the preschool rooms on the first floor. There are an additional 3 toilets and one wash hand basin on the ground floor. Adults have access to sanitary accommodation on the first floor and there are sinks provided in all care rooms. An accessible toilet and wash hand basin was also available on the ground floor. Soap dispensers and disposable paper towels were

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provided in the sanitary accommodation. Natural ventilation in the form of openable windows were in use in the toilets on the first floor and mechanical ventilation was in use in the sanitary accommodation on the ground floor. The service is connected to the public water supply and public sewage system.

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:

The change of use from sensory room to a care room will provide additional space comprising of an area of 20.07sqm which can accommodate the proposed additional 6 children.