

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.:	TU2015DR035
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Name of Service	Ballinteer Montessori School
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Address of Service:	Unit 7, Block C, Nutgrove Office Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16
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Email Address:	Ballinteermontessori@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Provider:	Teresa Duggan
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	√	Part-Time	√	Sessional	√
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	Change in Number of Children: From 54 to 60. Change in number of staff: From 5 to 12
Proposed Number of Children:	60 children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	No change recommended. The required floor space is not available for 60 children in the proposed age ranges attending on a full day care, parttime and sessional basis at any one time.
Registered change:	Changes not approved – service to remain registered for children

Date of Inspection:	2	5	0	6	2	0	2	4
Date of Inspection:	0	3	0	7	2	0	2	4

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Day 1 - Inspection undertaken by:	L. Magee
Day 2 - Inspection undertaken by:	L. Magee & F. Carty
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue,
	Blackrock,
	Co Dublin

Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

The service provider wishes to increase the number of children that can be accommodated from 54 to 60

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

Registration Status:	Remains unchanged – Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 54 Children
Date of Registration	1 st April 2025

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 operates an ECCE session between the hours of 09:00 to 12:30 in each of the three rooms for children ranging in age from 2 years 6 months to 5 years. A fourth care room was available but was not in use on either day of inspection. The service also offers a full daycare/ parttime 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.
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Premises	The premises comprises of two stories and includes 2 care rooms, a sensory 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 staff room and an office. Two outdoor play areas are 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.
Staffing	The service is currently staffed by 10 adults and includes the registered provider. In order to facilitate this change, the registered provider intends to increase to 12 staff members.
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>
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 has been met.

(1)(a) 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 12 adults caring for a maximum number of 60 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

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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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>There are 3 care rooms currently in use in the service, Pre-Montessori, Montessori 1 and Montessori 2 room. A fourth room is available but currently not in use. All rooms are suitably resourced and laid out. There are child-sized tables and chairs and a variety of age-appropriate equipment and materials which are well organised and easily accessible to children. There is an additional sensory room available to the children that contained soft furnishing.</p> <p>(1)(b)</p> <p>Suitable rest areas have been provided, and 5 low beds are available for children attending the service aged 2 years.</p> <p>(2)(b)</p> <p>The service has access to two 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 a 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.</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:

The requirement has been met.

The service provides breakfast and an afternoon snack. An external catering company supplies a hot dinner each day for the children attending on a fulltime basis. Parents provide a morning snack. A kitchen is available for the preparation and provision of food and drinks for children.

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 front door was kept locked.

Handrails were provided on the staircase.

Cleaning agents were stored out of sight and reach of children.

Water was thermostatically controlled and did not exceed 43°C.

The outdoor area is suitably secured.

Emergency exits are clear and fire exit doors have been appropriately secured.

There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins throughout the service.

Requirement not met:

The electric radiators did not have protective radiator covers to prevent a risk of burning to a child.

Three blind cords were broken in Montessori 2 and two further blind cords were not secured. One blind cord was not secured in the sensory room.

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Response from Provider:	A contractor will fix and repair blind cords in Montessori 2, secure 2 blind cords in Montessori 2, and secure blind cord in sensory room. They will also fit, and secure radiator covers on all radiators in the building. These works will be completed by Tuesday 23rd July 2024.
Summary Comment:	The response from the registered provider will address the requirements of Regulation 23.

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) The registered provider is the only adult in the service who has a current certification in first aid responder training (FAR). The registered provider has confirmed they will be on the premises at all times. A second adult will be trained as a first aid responder training (FAR) in August 2024.
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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 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) Monthly fire drills will continue to be carried out and a record kept.

(b) There was a maintenance record for firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed and the fire assembly point is identified.

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 insurance certificate quotation was submitted to the registration office. Evidence of insurance for 60 children was available to attend this service. 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.'

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 service is located in a purpose built structure over two floors.
- (b) The front door was kept locked at all times. A coded keypad was used to access the building.
- (c) The premises was suitably lit with natural light in all pre-school rooms via the windows supplemented by covered strip lighting. There was electric heating throughout the service.
- (d) The premises was clean and well maintained. There is a contract in place with a pest control company.
- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided. There are five toilets and one nappy changing unit with six wash hand basins which are provided for the children attending the service. There were two staff toilets with wash hand basins.

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

not met:

The requirement has not been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space has not been provided for the work, play and movement of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated.

For the purpose of clarity, the following room names will be numbered. These rooms are named on the architect’s plans.

Name on architect plans	Room number
Infants	1
Toddlers	2
Preschool	3
Twos	4

Room	Clear floor space	Proposed age range	Maximum number of children
1	19.28 m ²	2-3 years	8 full day care/11 sessional
2	24.22 m ²	3-4 years	11 full day care/13 sessional
3	22.63 m ²	3-6 years	10 full day care or 12 sessional
4	32.87 m ²	3-6 years	14 full day care or 18 sessional = 54 children in total.

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	<p>(2) The minimum amount of clear floor space for children attending a full time/part time service is 2.35 m² (2–3-year-old children) and 2.3 m² (3–6-year-old children). The minimum amount of clear floor space for children attending a sessional basis is 1.818 m². The registered provider confirmed all four care rooms will be in use in the service going forward.</p> <p>The registered provider was on the day of inspection informed and agreed that the maximum number of children allowed as per the space available is 54 preschool children.</p>
Response from Provider:	The registered provider agrees with the numbers outlined in the table above.
Summary Comment:	The response from the registered provider meets the requirements of Regulation 30.