

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:	ballinteermentessori@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Provider:	Teresa Duggan
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Type of Proposed Service:	Sessional	✓	Part-Time	✓	Drop-In	
	Full Day Care		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	36 to 48 children
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Proposed Number of Children:	48 children
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Registered change:	Increase in number of children from 36 to 48
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Date of Inspection:	0	9	0	9	2	0	2	1
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Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Floor 2, Brunel Building Heuston South Quarter Kilmainham, Dublin 8
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Rationale for Inspection :

Proposed Change of Circumstance

The service provider wishes to increase the number of children that can be accommodated from 36 to 48.

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part time and Sessional service for 48 children
Date of Registration	10 th September 2021

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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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 is seeking to operate three 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 play rooms and a sleep room and sanitary accommodation 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 will be 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.
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 three themes: Governance, Premises and Safety.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are documented in the inspection report and presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service changing their registration status. 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, staff and children who were 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:

(1)(a)

The requirement has been met. The registered provider is the designated person in charge and an adult currently working in the existing service will be able 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.

(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)

An adequate number of adults will work directly in the pre-school service, currently the service accommodates a maximum of 18 pre-school children in the Montessori 2 room in the age range 2 years 6 months to 5 years between the hours of 09.00 and 12.30 with 3 adults present. An afternoon session is offered between 13:00 to 16:00 with 2 adults present. A maximum number of 12 pre-school children are currently attending Montessori 1 room with an age range of 2 years 6 months and 5 years between 09:00 and 12:30 with 3 adults always present. A part time service is also offered between 08:30 and 13:30 to children attending the service.

It is proposed to offer an additional part time and sessional service accommodating an additional 14 children.

(8)

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

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.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) All playrooms in use in the service were equipped with toys and play equipment on open low-level shelving in areas of interest which included a home area, rest area and book corner. Low level tables and chairs were provided in all playrooms for pre-school children to engage in tabletop activities. A wide variety of Montessori materials including practical life activities, sensorial materials, language and mathematical activities were available in all care rooms. An additional playroom adjacent to the proposed pre-montessori room has been refurbished and equipped with toys, soft furnishings and shelving to be used as a sensory area for the children in attendance.</p> <p>(b) All care rooms have a rest area available. Cushions and a padded seated area was provided in the book corner of all the play rooms for pre-school children to rest and opt out of activities.</p>
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

- (2) An outdoor play area which was safely and securely fenced off by high level gated fencing on 1 side, the back wall of the outdoor area was a concrete wall. 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 play area. The gates at the entrance prevented unauthorised access to the outdoor play area and guarded against unsupervised exit of pre-school children from the outdoor play area. The ground area consisted of a mix of artificial grass and cobble locked paving.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Not applicable.

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. Parents will be required to provide food for their children the amount depending on which service they avail of. Refrigerators were available in all care rooms to store perishable items. A healthy eating policy was available to the inspector and contained information on acceptable foods and foods not permitted in the service.

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.
The doors at both the front and back entrance to the service had a lock system in place to secure the service against unauthorised access and to prevent unsupervised exit of pre-school children from the hallway in the service. Children will be accepted into the service from the front entrance door for the first floor playrooms and the rear entrance will be used for children attending the proposed additional playroom and taken directly to the playrooms by staff members during operational hours of the sessional and part time service. It was also noted that pre-school children will be collected from the front door after sessional hours by parents/guardians. Both the front door and external gate leading to the entrance had a security system in place.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

All blind cords were out of reach of children. All toys and furniture were in good condition and free from pinch and crush points and sharp edges. Handrails were available on the stairs to assist the children when climbing. The registered provider had sole use of both the building and the outdoor play area for the preschool service. There was built in storage facilities available for storage throughout the service. The enclosed shed in the outdoor area provided suitable storage for play and work equipment not in daily use. The kitchen was locked and inaccessible to children.

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) There was evidence that the registered provider and all employed adults had current certification in first aid for children. Evidence was provided to the inspector that a First Aid Responder course had been booked for the registered provider and the deputy person in charge to attend in October 2021.

(2)(a)(b)
Suitably equipped first aid boxes were provided. There was signage to indicate the locations of first aid boxes. The first aid boxes were available to the children always attending the service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) A recording system was provided to maintain a record of monthly fire drills as conducted in the service.

(b) The maintenance record for firefighting equipment was available they were last serviced on the 4th September 2020. A maintenance record for smoke alarms confirmed that a maintenance service was conducted on the 2nd July 2021.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was posted in the corridor outside the care rooms. A fire assembly point was posted on the wall opposite the service in the car park.

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 had insurance cover for a maximum of 48 children in daily attendance between the age range 2 years 6 months and 5 years. Insurance for the service was effective 31/08/2021.

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) There was no evidence of dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings which were freshly painted.

(b) The heavy-duty floor lino throughout the rooms was well fitted and in a good state of repair and maintenance. Both the front and back exits to the building guarded against both unsupervised exit of children and unauthorised access to the building. The building was not used for any other purpose unrelated to child care during operational hours of the service.

(c) The openable windows in all playrooms which were located at child height ensured both adequate natural day lighting and ventilation in the care rooms. They were fitted with restrictor devices. All fluorescent ceiling light fittings in rooms were covered with shatterproof diffusers. Heating was provided with thermostatically controlled air conditioning system. The temperature recorded in the care rooms was between the recommended 18° Celsius and 22° Celsius.

(d) All walls and ceilings were finished with a washable paint and were smooth surfaced for easy cleaning purposes.

(e) 3 toilets and 2 wash hand basins were located on the first floor and 3 toilets, and 1 wash hand basins were located on the ground floor for proposed use by a maximum of 48 pre-school children in daily attendance. The water supply to wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled. Water temperature was recorded at 19.6° Celsius. An additional sink was available in each care room. A combination of natural and mechanical ventilation was available in all sanitary facilities. A nappy changing station was available in the sanitary accommodation on both floors. A disability access toilet and wash hand basin on the ground floor and an additional adult toilet on the first floor provided suitable sanitary accommodation for adults working in the service.

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 requirement has been met.

(1) An area of 24.22 sqm provided adequate floor space for the proposed maximum additional 14 pre-school children in daily attendance on a sessional basis in the pre-montessori group. An additional area of 20.07sqm was available in the adjacent sensory room.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) The area of both care rooms ensured adequate floor space for the proposed maximum number of pre-school children in daily attendance on a sessional basis.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Not applicable.