

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR038							
Name of Service:	Broadford Montessori Preschool							
Address of Service:	Ballinteer Scouts Den Ballinteer Dublin 16							
Email Address:	Mccannemma158@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Emma McCann							
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Date of Inspection:	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	14						
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	2 nd Floor, Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin.							
Inspection undertaken by:	Linda Magee							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety
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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions If Applicable	Not applicable
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Description of Service	Broadford Montessori Pre-school was established in 2001. Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme is provided on a sessional basis to children aged 2-6 years. The programme of care is facilitated through a blend of a Montessori and play based curriculum. The hours of operation in the service are from 09:00 to 12:00, Monday to Friday.
Premises	Broadford Montessori Pre-school is located in a residential urban area in Ballinteer, Dublin 16. The service operates from one large open plan room. This premises is used by a local scouts group, outside of the service's operating hours. The service has use of an outdoor area to the side of the premises.
Staffing	The service employs four staff members, including the registered provider.
Methodology	<p>Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety and well-being of children attending such services is upheld.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.</p> <p>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.

GOVERNANCE

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by—
- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
 - (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
 - (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
 - (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information:	<p>Following a review of the service files and after discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that there were two new members of staff employed in the service since the last inspection.</p> <p>These two files were reviewed on the day of the inspection as evidenced below:</p> <p>(2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Four validated references on file were from a past employer. (c) Completed Garda vetting disclosures were available for two new members of staff. (d) Police vetting was available for one adult employed in the service who had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six months as an adult. <p>(4)</p> <p>Two of the adults employed held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications, or qualifications deemed to be equivalent.</p>
Non-Compliance Information:	(d) Police vetting was not available for one adult employed in the service who had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six months as an adult.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<p><u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>Police vetting has been applied for one adult employed in the service.</p> <p><u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>The registered provider will ensure police vetting is present for any future employees who have lived outside the state for longer than six months as an adult.</p>

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

	<p>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED Police vetting received 03/03/2022.</p>
Summary Comment:	The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 (2) has been addressed.

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.*
- (3) *Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) *Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—*
- (c) *a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service 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.*

Compliance Information:	<p>(1) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.</p> <p>(3) At all times during the period of inspection the minimum ratios of adults to children were maintained. There were 3 adults working directly with 14 pre-school children on the day of inspection.</p> <p>(8)(c) Not applicable as the service is not operated single-handedly.</p>
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that—

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child

Compliance Information:

BASIC NEEDS:

Parents provided snacks and a light lunch for all children which were stored in the fridge. Individual water bottles were available to children in their room. Children's toileting and hygiene needs were attended to promptly and they were supervised using the toilet independently.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

Methods of communication with parents have been adjusted considering Covid-19. Staff described how they avail of opportunities to opportunities to communicate with parents and guardians for brief periods at the different drop off and collection point. The service uses an online messaging application which provides instant information for both parents and staff on a weekly basis.

The children were observed playing individually as well as in small groups with the adults encouraging their imaginative skills and a sense of teamwork. Staff sat at the children's level, addressed them by name. Staff were observed to respond promptly and supportively to children in their care adapting the routine to meet individual needs as they arose. Children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way with minor problems handled promptly.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Low level tables and chairs and low-level shelving with equipment and age-appropriate materials were accessible to the pre-school children in the pre-school room. Toys and materials available to the children included books, building blocks, puzzles and art materials. The children's artwork and family photographs were displayed on the wall. The children had access to a large, grassed area to the side of the preschool. Toys were brought out for the children to play.

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.

Compliance Information:

General Safety:

All cleaning products and equipment, alcohol-based hand sanitisers and hazardous materials were stored safely out of reach of children. External doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service. Heavy furniture was secured and no loose cables were observed. All fire exits were observed to be clear.

Infection Control

An infection control policy is in place to inform practice. The policy had been amended to include the updated guidance regarding Covid-19.

The premises were maintained in a clean and hygienic manner. The wash-hand basins in the sanitary area were equipped with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels. Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal-operated, lidded bins throughout the service. Both children and staff were observed using the pedal bins effectively. The children washed their hands routinely, on arrival to the service and prior to snack times. Staff stated all toys were disinfected after each session.

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.

Compliance Information:

(1)

A person trained as a First Aid Responder (FAR) was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was adequately stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service as required.

(b) A first aid box was always available to the adults and children in the service.

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

Compliance Information:

- (1)
 - (a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 6th of December 2021.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had taken place on the 30th of April 2021.
- (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.