

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR040
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Boosterstown Montessori School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Boosterstown Community Centre, Grotto Ave, Boosterstown, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A94 N8C7
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Helen Blaney
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/03/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	20	PM	n/a
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 D08X01F
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	R Phillips
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector

### 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Click or tap here to enter text.
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### Description of service

	<b>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016</b> <b>QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Service ID: TU2015DR040</b>	<b>1 of 8</b>
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Boosterstown Montessori School is a privately operated early years' service, providing part time care and education for children from 2 years and 8 months of age to 6 years. It currently operates between 08:45-12:55hrs Monday to Friday, 38 weeks of the year. It operates from a ground floor premises, in a community centre in an urban area of South County Dublin. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme.

### Staffing

There were three full time staff employed in the service. All staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 6 or above.

### Methodology

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. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

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.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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

*(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,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

*(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

(1)(a) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The deputy person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.

(2) All three staff files were reviewed.

(2)(a)(b) The following references were made available in respect of the files reviewed:

Five references from previous employers had been validated and one reference from a reputable source.

(2)(c) Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all staff. They were dated within the last three years in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorates regulatory notice that requires registered providers to reapply for Garda vetting for all staff within a three-year timeframe.

(2)(d) International police vetting was available for one staff member who had worked outside the Irish jurisdiction for 6 months or longer as an adult.

(4) Each employee working directly with the children holds a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 6 or above on the National Qualifications Framework.

## 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.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) There was an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the preschool service at all times during the inspection.

(2) The adult to child ratio was correct in the service. There were three adults working directly with the twenty children in attendance.

## 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, and*

#### Compliance Information

##### Basic Needs :

The service has a healthy eating policy. Children brought fruit snacks and a packed lunch from home. Each child had access to their own individual water bottles, throughout the inspection.

The children's independence was encouraged appropriate to their age and stage of development. The children were observed managing their own belongings and going to the toilet independently. The children had jobs as the helping hands and were encouraged by the staff and praised for their efforts.

##### Materials and Environment:

The main care room was filled with natural light and facilitated supervision of all the children. There was a very calm atmosphere, as the children chose from art materials such as easels and paints, or from a wide range of Montessori play based materials. They engaged happily in individual activities, in small groups or one to one with the adults present.

There were low level tables and chairs, and all materials were accessible to the children. The children were observed using the rest areas available and the library area.

A secure outdoor area was available to the children at the rear of the building, with 2 slides, a covered sandpit, tyres, toys such as diggers, small cars, and skittles all stored in a shed.

### 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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider and staff had taken the following measures to safeguard the children attending.

#### General Safety:

The external doors of the service were secured, to prevent children leaving the service unsupervised and restrict access to prevent unauthorised persons from entering the premises.

Cleaning agents and medicines were stored safely out of reach of children.

Equipment and materials were in good working condition and suitable for the age and stage of the children.

Risk assessment check lists were reviewed for indoor and outdoor areas and equipment.

#### Infection Control:

Cleaning schedules were in place

Adequate sanitary facilities were available to the children, warm water liquid soap and paper towels were available for handwashing. The children were observed washing their hands independently supervised by the staff before eating snacks and meals and after using the toilet or messy play.

The toys materials and equipment available to the children were clean and well maintained.

There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste with pedal operated bins in use throughout the service.

#### Administration of Medication:

In conversation with the staff, they demonstrated an understanding of the procedure to follow in the event that a child required medicine.

Records were available of previous medicine administration. These records were completed correctly and included the time and date given, staff signature who gave the medicine staff signature who witnessed and parental signature.

#### Fire Safety:

Fire exits were marked clearly and unobstructed.

Fire drills were recorded as being practiced with adequate frequency, and records were maintained of maintenance of fire detecting and firefighting equipment. A notice of the procedure to follow in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous place on a notice board within the service.

**Outings:**

There was an outings policy which describes measures to be taken to ensure safety and welfare of the children when on an outing.

## 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) The manager of the service held in date First aid response (FAR) training. A person with FAR training was scheduled to be present and available to the children attending the service at all times when the service is operating.

(2)(a) The first aid box was suitably equipped and easily accessible to the staff in a conspicuous location within the service.

(b) The first aid box was available to the adults and the children in the service at all times.

## 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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 of the fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill recorded was undertaken on the 22/02/ 2025.
- (1)(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the firefighting equipment were dated 04/10/2024, and 27/8/2024 for the smoke alarms.
- (2) The records referred to in paragraph (1) were available for inspection.
- (4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location.