

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR153		
Name of Service:	Little Eaton Montessori		
Address of Service:	1A Eaton Brae, Corbawn Lane, Shankill, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D18 PY79		
Name of Registered Provider:	Sinead Doocey		
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	29/09/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM 13
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, County Dublin.		
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill		
Title:	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).			
Conditions if applicable	Not applicable		

Description of service

Little Eaton Montessori was first established in September 2012 and is privately operated. The childcare service is registered to provide part-time and sessional education and care to pre-school children from 2.5 years to 5.5 years. The early years service is located in a room in the registered provider's private residence in a residential area of Shankill County Dublin. The service operates Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 13:30.

Staffing

The registered provider and two adults are employed in the service. On the 29 September 2023 the registered provider and two staff were present and working directly with the children.

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. This inspection focused on the following Regulations.

9 – Management and Recruitment.

11 – Staffing levels.

16 – Record in relation to Pre-school service.

23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare.

25 – First Aid

26 – Fire Safety

27 – Supervision.

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 registered provider, 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

(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,

(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

(2) Recruitment records for three staff employed in the service were reviewed on inspection as follows;

(a) Two validated references from a past employer were available for all staff employed in the service.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all staff.

(d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4) A record was available evidencing the three staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were eighteen children attending the service being supervised by three adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were two adults on the premises at all times. The staff roster demonstrated that two adults are present in the service at all times during the hours of operation.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) The service maintained a room register detailing the arrival and departure times of children on a daily basis.
 - (i) A staff roster was available and up to date.
 - (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a pre-school child.
 - (k) A sample of accident and incident records were reviewed. The forms were completed as required and signed by staff and parents.

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:

- The entry to the service was safely secured to prevent unauthorised access and to prevent children leaving unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored safely and inaccessible to children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.

Infection Control:

- The service maintained a cleaning schedule and the environment was clean.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. Children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including following outdoor play, after using the toilet and before meals.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Staff demonstrated an awareness of how to give medications in a safe manner if needed. A suitable medication record form was available to record any medication given.
- A care plan was available for a child who had a specific medical condition. Staff were familiar with the plan and the child's needs.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

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 in first aid for children was available at all times. Two adults had first aid responder training certificates that were valid until 22 April 2024 and the 24 August 2024.

(2)

(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored and accessible on the premises.

(b) A first aid box was readily available at all times 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 monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 13 September 2023.
 - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment were dated 8 December 2022 and 17 February 2022 for the smoke alarms.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was clearly displayed in the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

At all times during the inspection children were adequately supervised.