

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D:** TU2015DR185

**Name of Service** Pembroke Montessori

**Address of Service:** 52 Pembroke Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 H7Y5

**Email Address:** pembrokemontessori@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Sinead Coleman

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed change:** Change in the number of children accommodated with the removal of a care room on the first-floor return and the addition of two new care rooms on the first floor.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 44

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Increase to 43 due to floor space

**Registered change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 29 to 43.

**Date of Inspection:** 1 6 0 8 2 0 2 3

**Inspection undertaken by:** R. Brien

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** The Brunel Building,  
Heuston South Quarter,  
St. John's Road West,  
Dublin 8

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Full Day Care service for 43 Children

**Date of Registration** 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Pembroke Montessori is a privately operated early years service. The service provides full day and part time care and caters for children from 2 to 6 years of age. The service is registered to operate from 08:30 to 18:00.
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service is located in the basement and ground floor of a period building in Dublin south city. The current premises consists of an entrance lobby, three care rooms, a kitchen and sanitary accommodation for children and staff. There is an outdoor space at the back of the building split over two levels. The lower level is used as an outdoor class area by all rooms at different times of the day.</p> <p>The registered provider has removed the third care room which was located on the first-floor return and replaced this with sanitary accommodation. Two new care rooms are located on the first floor and will accommodate fourteen proposed additional children.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	The service has two managers, one of whom is the registered provider. Eight adults are employed to work directly with the pre-school children. Both managers are available to work directly with the children and provide relief cover as needed.
<b>Methodology</b>	<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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 of Regulation 9 (1)(a) has been met. The registered provider is the designated person in charge of the service and there is a named person 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has identified that a minimum of two staff members will be on the premises at all times and evidenced this with a proposed staffing roster for the service. Eight adults are currently employed to work directly with the pre-school children. The registered provider and deputy person in charge are available to provide cover as needed. The registered provider demonstrated an awareness of the minimum staffing requirements required for the increase in number of 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 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

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) Adequate and suitable facilities were provided for children to play indoors and outdoors. The care rooms were bright and spacious and well laid out with various equipment and play materials on open, low level shelving units. Materials included home corners, nature tables, Montessori equipment, construction materials and books. Appropriately sized tables and chairs were available for table-top activities.</p> <p>The outdoor area was located to the rear of the premises and was split over two levels and had an artificial grass surfacing. The lower level was sheltered by a canopy. The areas had equipment to support full body movement including a climbing frame. There were designated interest areas including sand and water play.</p> <p>(1)(b) Adequate and suitable rest facilities were available for preschool children to rest during the day if required. Designated areas with matting and cushions were available within each room where children could rest or take a break from activities.</p> <p>(2)(b) Not applicable.</p> <p>(3)(a) The service has use of a designated outdoor play area to the rear of the premises. The area is fully enclosed and equipped with a range of play materials.</p> <p>The service had a suitable designated outdoor area at the rear of the premises. The gate to enter or exit this area were secured to prevent unauthorised entry or a child leaving unsupervised. The area was well maintained and no hazards were observed.</p>
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# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.

A separate kitchen was available in the service with facilities for storing perishable foods and for the preparation of hot meals. The registered provider stated that a hot meal is served daily, which is provided by an external catering company. Two snacks are also provided by the service. A rotating menu for meals and snacks was in place and the service has a healthy eating policy. Drinking water and cups were available in all rooms.

### 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.

Appropriate measures had been taken to ensure the safety of the proposed children as outlined in the examples below:

- All external doors and gates were secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving the service unsupervised.
- Emergency doors were unobstructed to allow for safe evacuation.
- There were no loose cables or cords that could pose a risk of injury.
- Cleaning agents and medicines were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Hot water was thermostatically controlled and did not exceed 43°C.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of foot pedal bins throughout the service.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.
- An infection control policy was in place to inform practice.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 evidenced that a person trained in first aid will be available to the children at all times.

(2)

(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available in rooms throughout the service. These were conspicuous and within easy reach of the adults.

(b) The first aid boxes were available for use 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.
- (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) The registered provider indicated that fire drills will take place monthly in the service and appropriate documentation was in place to record them.

(b) There was a record available to indicate the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in various conspicuous locations within the premises.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Requirement met:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. 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 proposed new care rooms have been purposely adapted for use as a preschool service and the registered provider confirmed that the premises is of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The registered provider had taken appropriate measures to safeguard the premises. All external doors and gates were locked to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving unsupervised.
- (c) All rooms had large windows which provided good levels of natural light. This could be supplemented as needed with fluorescent lighting. The windows could be opened to provide natural ventilation. There was a convectional gas central heating system in place and thermostatically controlled radiators throughout the service.
- (d) Cleaning schedules were in place in the service. The premises and surrounding environment was clean and maintained as required.
- (e) The service was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. There were three toilets and wash hand basins designated for use by staff working in the service. There were four toilets and four wash hand basins designated for use in the new rooms within the children’s sanitary areas. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water was available in the four wash hand basins. There were no nappy changing facilities available as it is intended that all children attending the service will be toilet trained.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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### 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).

#### Requirement not met:

(1)(2) The registered provider proposed to increase the number of children accommodated from 29 to 44 adding an additional 15 children. The table below demonstrates the service has adequate floor space to accommodate an additional 14 children across the two new care rooms increasing the number of children to 43.

Room Name	Clear Floor Space
Room 3 (new first floor room - Puffin)	22.6m <sup>2</sup>
Room 4 (new first floor room – Starling)	22.5m <sup>2</sup>

(3) Not applicable.

(4) Not applicable

#### Response from Provider:

We accept that the space requirements allow for an increase to 43 children, rather than 44 as originally applied for as the proposed change. We will increase our enrolment to 43 children.

#### Summary Comment:

Based on the age range and space in the rooms proposed there is adequate space for 43 children.

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