

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR185
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Name of Service:	Pembroke Montessori
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Address of Service:	52 Pembroke Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D04 H7Y5
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sinead Coleman
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	24/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	35	PM	34
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Brunel building, Hueston South Quarter, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	J. Mayock
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
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Description of service

Pembroke Montessori is a privately operated early year's service. Children aged two to six years can attend on a full time or part-time basis. The service is open from 8:30am to 18:00pm. The service is located in the basement and ground floor of a period building in Dublin south city. Children are cared for in four rooms, two are located on the first floor and two on the basement floor. There is an outdoor space at the back of the building split over two levels.

Staffing

There were eleven adults present on the day of the inspection including the centre manager and one student. Of the adults, eight were working directly with the children. The registered provider was not present on the day of inspection and does not work 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. 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 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

(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,*

(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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (c) There was evidence of a clear management structure which outlined the roles of authority within the service.
- (2)
- Following a discussion with the person in charge it was confirmed that eight adults commenced working in the service since regulation 9 was last inspected on the 24th January 2022. Documentation required under regulation 9(2)(4) was reviewed in respect of these eight adults as detailed below.
- (a) (b) There were twelve references available from a previous employer and four references available from a reputable source for the eight adults, all references had been appropriately verified.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all eleven of the adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all adults.
- (d) International Police vetting was available for seven adults who required it.
- (4) Each of the eight adults held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were thirty-five pre-school children attending the service being supervised by eight adults during the inspection.

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-*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed throughout the inspection. The routine of the service was child led, children were visibly content and happy in their play-based activities throughout the inspection. The Montessori method was practiced in each room for a period of time and children moved freely around the rooms throughout the day engaged in a wide range of Montessori materials and activities including imaginative play, tabletop, mark making and arts and crafts. Staff supported children in their play, sitting with them and involving themselves when invited by a child or by using prompts to extend play and learning. Staff were responsive to children's individual needs and communicated well with the children, using kind tones and gentle language during interactions. Transitions were handled well, and children were aware of the routine.

Staff sat with children and engaged in conversation while they ate. Staff encouraged children to feed themselves independently and assisted where needed. Children were encouraged to be independent in using the toilet, cleaning up after activities. Minor disputes between children were managed in a calm manner and staff were observed to comfort children if they became upset. Staff demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of children's individual care needs during discussions with the inspector on the weekly activities. In one care room a visitor had come in to discuss the topic of the week with the children promoting a sense of community.

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:

- Entrances and exits were secured to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of children.
- Cables and flexes were secured out of reach of children.
- Emergency exits were kept clear for safe evacuation if needed.
- A low-level handrail was provided on the stairs.
- Stair gates were in place at the bottom and top of each staircase.

Infection Control:

- The premises was clean and well maintained.
- Sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped.
- Children washed their hands before eating and after toileting.
- Waste was managed appropriately with pedal operated, lidded bins.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)
A person trained in first aid responder was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of the inspection.

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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)
(a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on 20th January 2025.
(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 and smoke alarms were dated 9th December 2024.