

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS044				
Name of Service:	Enchanted Abbey Montessori School				
Address of Service:	4 Weston Lawn, Lucan, Co. Dublin				
Eircode:	K78 V060				
Name of Registered Provider:	Laura Farrelly				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	04/12/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>9</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	9	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8				
Inspection undertaken by:	Fiona Carty				
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

Enchanted Abbey Montessori school is a privately operated sessional service located in Lucan, Co Dublin. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.15am and 12:15pm and operates from an internal room in the registered providers domestic dwelling. An outdoor play area was located to the rear of the property.

Staffing

On the day of inspection there were two adults present and working with the children in the service.

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, information and records, health, welfare and development of child and safety.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels

Regulation 16 – Regulation in Relation to a Preschool Service

Regulation 19 – Health, Welfare and Development of the Child

Regulation 23 – Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16.

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, 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-

(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,

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(c)

The registered provider did not ensure that they complied with the regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every three years. Garda vetting records were available for all adults who worked in the service however they had not been renewed in the required 3 years.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

-Vetting documents applied for and evidence of same reviewed by inspector

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documents submitted

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with supporting evidence were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 9.

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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children throughout the inspection.

(3) There was an adequate number of adults working with the children at all times throughout the inspection. There were 2 adults working directly with 9 children.

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;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) A written record was available detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.
 - (i) A staffing roster was available in the service detailing hours of work for each staff member on the day of inspection.

(k) A sample of accident and incident records were reviewed and were signed by staff and adults and completed appropriately.

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

Care practices observed on the day of inspection were appropriate and suitable to the age and the needs of the children in attendance. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent including using the toilet independently and cleaning up after their play and meals. Staff made themselves available to the children to scaffold and extend learning as well as be available should a child require assistance. The inspector observed words of encouragement and positive behaviour used throughout the inspection. The atmosphere in the care room was calm, friendly and supportive. The staff demonstrated warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children by using soft vocal tones and listening attentively. Staff were observed to be responsive to the children providing assistance as required.

All the children brought their lunches from home which contained a variety of sandwiches, yoghurts and fruit. Snack time was observed to be a calm, sociable occasion and the staff encouraged conversation and independence encouraging the children to open food containers and peel fruit.

The children had freedom of choice and movement within the preschool room. The care room contained a varied provision of play materials and equipment suitable for the age range and number of children attending the service. The inspector observed the children's learning, development and well-being being supported by the staff and the environment. The rooms had defined interest areas such as home corner and book corner. The service also had materials from the Montessori method of education available for use. The care rooms were both well-resourced with a variety of equipment and play materials which were accessible to the children at all times on low level shelving units. Children's artwork was displayed on the walls together with educational posters. The play

experiences in the service were observed to be child-led. Children were observed exploring their environment, engaged in activities and playing with each other and the staff.

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:

Access to the service was secure ensuring no unauthorised access to or from the building. Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children. Heavy furniture was secured and cables were out of reach of children. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.

Infection Control:

Liquid soap and warm water were available to facilitate hand washing. The inspector observed the premises and play equipment to be appropriately maintained and in a clean condition. Pedal operated lidded bins were available for the safe disposal of waste.

Fire Safety:

The emergency exits were kept clear. Regular fire drills took place in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The children did not wash their hands prior to eating their snack.
2. There were no paper towels available in the sanitary accommodation for children to dry their hands.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Team re-read and discussed the infection control policy. Hand washing completed before lunch every day.

2. Paper towel basket refilled. Appointed team member to ensure paper towel basket filled before and during each day.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Picture of paper towel basket.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with supporting evidence were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 23.

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 was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

A record of fire drills was available in the service. The last fire drill took place on the 21st October 2024.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The maintenance of the smoke alarms and fire extinguishers had not been carried out since the 24th May 2022.

Maintenance of the smoke alarms and fire extinguishers are required annually.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b) inspection carried out on fire extinguishing equipment. Taken note in diary of date for next inspection.

Supporting documentation submitted

Certificate of inspection.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with supporting evidence were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 26.