

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS156		
Name of Service:	Greentrees Park Montessori School		
Address of Service:	1 Greentrees Park, Whitehall Road West, Whitehall, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D12 WC60		
Name of Registered Provider:	Tara Jordan Cosgrove		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	14/11/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Bray, Co Wicklow		
Inspection undertaken by:	Mary Redmond		
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

This private childcare service was established in 1996 by the current registered provider. Sessional care and education is provided for children aged two and a half to five and a half years of age. The service operates from 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. The service is registered to accommodate a maximum number of twenty-two children.

The service operates from a structure adjacent to the registered provider's domestic dwelling in a residential area of southwest Dublin. There is an outdoor space provided but this is not currently available to children due to refurbishment works being carried out on the domestic dwelling.

Staffing

There are two adults employed in the service including the registered provider who works directly with the children on a daily basis. Both adults were working in the service on the day of inspection.

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 governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Compliance was assessed under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 15 Record of pre-school child

Regulation 19 Health, welfare and development of child

Regulation 25 First aid

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 reoccurring. 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.

Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice (IAN) was issued to the registered provider on the 14 November 2023 as there was no adult available with valid first aid training.

The registered provider responded on the 17 November 2023 and the early years inspector is satisfied that the risk posed has been mitigated.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and staff member who facilitated the inspection 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,

(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

- (2)
- (a) There were written references available from previous employers for the registered provider and two validated written references for one adult employed in the service.
 - (b) References from other sources were not required.
 - (c) Garda vetting was available for two adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was not required.

(4)
One adult had attained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications and the other adult had a letter of eligibility to practice issued in 2018 by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA).

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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. There were two adults working with fifteen children throughout the session.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1) Records were reviewed for all children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child
- (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.
- (f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.
- (g) The name, address and telephone number of each child's general practitioner (GP) was recorded.
- (h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (i) There was no written parental consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Children's records have been updated to include parental consent for medical treatment in the event of emergency. Consent for children currently attending has been added to each child's record.

Summary Comment

Documentation has been submitted and reviewed.

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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

(1)(a)

Children enjoyed snacks provided by parents and they were given time to finish their food at their own pace. Drinking water was readily available to children. Children were supported to use the toilet independently. Children were cared for by the same two adults each day who provided guidance towards positive behaviour. Adults supported children with table-top activities and floor work. Calm interactions were observed between adults and children where adults used labelled praise to encourage children to complete tasks and children had opportunities to interact positively with each other.

The indoor environment was well laid out with child-sized tables and chairs. Age-appropriate equipment and materials were available including a large range of Montessori equipment and materials.

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

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box was available.

(a) It was stored safely in a conspicuous position in the Montessori room.

(b) The first aid box was available to children at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did not ensure that a person trained in first aid was available to children at all times. The registered provider's first aid training had expired.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A First Aid Responder (FAR) course has been completed by the registered provider on the 22 January 2024.

Summary Comment

Documentation has been submitted and reviewed.

The regulatory requirement has been met.