

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS220
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Amazing Minds Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Terenure Badmington Centre, Whitehall Road, Terenure, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D12 P659
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sinead Finnerty
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	22/09/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Sarah Quigley
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

Amazing Minds Montessori is a privately owned service which was established in 2015 by the current registered provider. The early years' service offers an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme on a sessional basis to pre-school children aged two to six years. The programme of care is facilitated through an emergent play-based curriculum. The hours of operation in the service are from 09:00 to 12:00 each weekday.

Amazing Minds Montessori is located in a residential area of Terenure, Dublin 12. The early years service is provided in a purposely adapted room on the first floor of the Terenure Badminton Centre. The premises consists of one open plan pre-school room and children's sanitary accommodation. The children have access to a large indoor hall for gross motor play.

### Staffing

The service currently employs three staff members, including the registered provider who works directly with the children in the service. On the day of inspection, the registered provider and the two other staff members were present.

### 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/ safety/ information and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15.

The inspection focused on 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

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

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-*

*(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.*

*(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*

*(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

No new adults had been employed to work in the service since the last date of inspection on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.

The requirements for Regulation 9(2)(3)(4) were met during previous inspections of the service in respect of the registered provider and the other two adults currently employed in the service. Therefore, the inspection of Regulation 9 was limited to the requirements detailed in 9(2)(c), the findings were as follows:

- Garda vetting disclosures from The National Vetting Bureau were available for the three adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

### 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 directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (3)  
The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were seventeen children present in the service being supervised by three adults during the inspection.

### 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)  
A sample of documentation was reviewed by the inspector in respect of twelve children in attendance to assess compliance relating to the records of preschool children maintained in the service. The sample of documentation reviewed evidenced that records were kept in writing in respect of pre-school children attending the service detailing the information outlined under Regulation 15(1)(a) to (i).

### 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

The inspector observed appropriate care practices in place throughout the inspection.

Children and staff members sat together during lunch time creating a sociable atmosphere. Drinks of water were available to the children at all times. A designated rest area was provided within the classroom where children could relax or take a break from activities. Staff provided comfort to children when upset and managed minor conflicts using positive conflict resolution strategies. Children were encouraged to be independent in cleaning up after play and preparing for mealtimes. Staff prepared children for transitions giving advanced notice and using a song which ensured a seamless transition from one stage of the morning to the next. The children moved freely around the classroom throughout the morning, independently choosing what activities they would like to engage in both alone, in groups, and with staff members.

The programme of care was observed to be child led and children were visibly content and engaged in play throughout the inspection. Staff arranged areas of interest and various activities to ensure meaningful play experiences. These included playdough, imaginative play, and drawing. Children accessed the toilet independently supervised by staff members who provided support to younger children where required. Staff availed of

opportunities throughout the inspection for personal one to one conversation and were continuously prompting conversation with the children creating a language rich environment. Staff were observed interacting warmly and respectfully with the children and regularly offered praise and encouragement.

### 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 who had been trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) was available to the children on the day of inspection.
- (2)  
(a) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location within the service.  
(b) A first aid box was available to the adults.

### 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 fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place in September 2025.
  - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system had been serviced within the required timeframe.
- (4)
- The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations within each room in the service.