

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY062				
Name of Service:	Doreen's Preschool Montessori				
Address of Service:	31 Kinvara Grove, Navan Road, Dublin 7.				
Eircode:	D07 NP80				
Name of Registered Provider:	Patrick Gabriel Bradley				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	10/03/2026				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>25</td> <td>PM</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </table>	AM	25	PM	9
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, D08 X01F				
Inspection undertaken by:	J.A McKimm and S. Murray				
Titles:	Early Years Inspector and Inspection and Registration Manager				

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

Doreen's Preschool Montessori is a privately owned sessional service located in a residential area in North Dublin. The service is comprised of two classrooms named the Playroom and the Montessori room, which are in separate buildings to the rear of the registered provider's home. The service is registered to provide sessional early childhood care and education to a maximum of 29 children aged 2-6 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme offering two sessions per day 8.45am-11.45am and 12pm-3pm over 38 weeks of the year. An enclosed outdoor area is available on the grounds of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. There are five staff members employed in the service including a person in charge and four staff working directly with 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

The inspection was unannounced and focused on an examination of compliance under;

- Regulation 9(1)(a)(b)(c), (2)(c) - Management and Recruitment,
- Regulation 11(1), (3), Staffing levels,
- Regulation 19(1)(a) - Health, Welfare and Development of child,
- Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,
- Regulation 24(1), (3)(a)(b) - Checking in and out attendance records,

- Regulation 25 (1), (2) - First Aid,
- Regulation 26 (1), (4) - Fire Safety.

However, on inspection additional non-compliances were identified under;

Regulation 8 - Notification of a change in circumstance,

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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 inspectors would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect..

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The morning sessional service is registered to operate from 08:45-11:45am. On the day of inspection, 5 children remained on the premises when the morning session ended. Staff informed the inspection team that some children stay on for 30-45 minutes. The registered provider did not furnish the agency in writing of any proposed changes to the operational hours of the sessional service or submit an application to operate as a sessional and part time service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service has submitted a change in circumstance application to change service type from sessional to part time care. The service will operate as a sessional service until this is approved.

Supporting documentation submitted

Change in circumstances application confirmed.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 8 has been addressed.

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, and
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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.

Compliance Information

(1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise.

(2) There were no new members of staff employed since the last inspection 11 December 2023.

- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and for all 5 staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) (b)(c) Upon the inspection teams unannounced arrival at the service at 9.40am the person in charge was not present and staff were unclear about who was assigned to deputise in her absence. It is acknowledged that the person in charge arrived to the service shortly after the inspection had commenced.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Staff are aware that there is a Deputy Person in Charge in the service and that they are the point of contact in the person in charge's absence from the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 has been addressed.

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) The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working with the children throughout the inspection. There were five adults caring for twenty-five children in the morning and four staff members caring for nine children in the afternoon on the day of inspection.
- (3) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children.

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) The following activities, interactions, materials and equipment was observed to support children's learning and development

Basic Needs

- Children's needs were met in a warm caring, and responsive manner, as a result children were observed to be confident in their environment for example, they showed the inspector their artwork and were keen to talk about their day.

- The children were supported to follow their own interests, explore their environment and make their own choices, while receiving help during activities and transitions. Staff encouraged decision making by actively supervising and guiding them. Children could choose whether to go outside and during messy play and table tops activities staff encouraged them to name colours and discuss shapes and sizes. Staff extended children's literacy by using puppets at story time.
- On the day of inspection, the children had access to a range of sensory and messy activities and play. They played with water and sand.
- Snack time was observed to be a social experience as children sat with both staff and their peers. Children brought their snacks from home and were given ample time to enjoy their snack and had access to their drinks throughout the morning. The service operated a rolling snack time, and children could access their snack if they so required at any stage during the morning.
- All children were observed to access the outdoor play area on the day of the inspection where they were provided with the opportunity to engage in physical play. This facilitated the development of fundamental movement skills.
- Staff offered supervision during toileting and assisted with personal care needs such as handwashing and blowing noses.

Supporting relationships

- Children's artwork, photographs, family walls and birthday charts were displayed throughout the playrooms and service, supporting the children's sense of identity and links between home and the service.
- The positioning of the furniture in the playroom allowed for large group, small group and individual play which facilitated and promoted peer relationships and social development.
- Staff engaged with the children in a warm and responsive manner, using positive strategies such as listening, recalling what the children said and feedback.
- Staff were observed to communicate with parents and guardians through discussion and informal chats at drop off and collection times.

Physical and material environment

- The furniture provided in each care room was low level and appropriate for children attending with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.

- There was a range of equipment available throughout the service which was in line with the developmental age of the children this included, mark making equipment, home corners with associated props to facilitate imaginative play experiences, stacking, building, connecting and threading toys to facilitate creative play, cars and tracks for transporting and books to facilitate language and early literacy.
- There was a large range of equipment in the outdoor area enhancing children’s gross motor skills for example, ride on toys and tricycles.

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:

- The entrance to the premises was secured with a magnetic release locking device which staff opened from the main care room preventing unknown persons entering the premises. The release button was inaccessible to the children therefore preventing children from exiting the premises.
- Toys and equipment were maintained in good condition free from hazards.
- Flexes and cords were secured safely out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

- A sand pit in the outdoor area was fitted with a lid to prevent contamination when not in use.
- Windows were observed to be open to allow fresh air to circulate.

Administration of Medication:

- No children were on prescribed medication on the day of inspection. The service had a medication administration policy should medication be required to be administered to a child.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clear and unobstructed on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. There was no hot water available to children to wash their hands in the Montessori room. Children should be facilitated to wash their hands under thermostatically controlled running water, in line with HSPC guidance in relation to infection control.
2. Foot pedal operated bins were not available to allow for the hygienic disposal of contaminated materials such as used tissues.
3. Effective infection control measures were not in place in the Playroom. A build-up of mould was visible on the surface surrounding two windows in close proximity to where children were observed playing. It was noted that cleaning checklists were not completed.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. New hot water boiler was purchased for the Montessori room by service in 2025, with sufficient capacity for all children to wash their hands in line with best practice.
2. Two large pedal operated foot bins have been ordered for the service.
3. Anti mould solution has been applied to the windows and a deep clean has taken place.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective actions and has accepted these; preventive actions will be reviewed upon the next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The attendance and departure of children from the service was not accurately or contemporaneously recorded. Five children remained on the premises after the morning session had ended who were marked out as having left at 11:45. This poses a risk to child safety, safeguarding and the operational management of the service.

(3) (a)(b) The inspection team were not requested to sign a visitor's book upon arrival in the service. It was acknowledged by the person in charge that there is no visitors book on the premises. It is essential that accurate records of visitors to the service are kept as part of health, safety and safeguarding standards.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) The service has applied to change its service type from sessional to part time and will operate as a sessional service until this is approved. All children departure times will be accurately recorded.

(3) (a)(b) A visitors' book has been purchased for the service and is in use.

Supporting documentation submitted

Email confirmation submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 24 have been addressed.

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) There was documentary evidence to show that one adult held certification in First Aid Response training and was rostered to be available at all times to the children attending the service.
- (2) (a)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available to the adults caring for the children and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the care rooms

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) Fire drills were completed monthly. The last fire drill completed was recorded in February 2026.
 - (b) A record was maintained of the service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system which were both serviced in September 2025.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was not displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(4) There is a notice of procedures to be followed displayed on the wall beside the door in the playroom. It is above the fire extinguishers. It is also on display in Montessori room.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken. Regulatory compliance has been met for Regulation 26.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(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.

Non-Compliance Information

(3) On the day of inspection, the inspectors observed 9 children present within the Montessori room. The total number of children currently accommodated in this room is 10. The room was measured at 15.98 m². To ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service 9 children can be accommodated in this room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(3) Effective immediately 9 children will be accommodated in this room, additional children being accommodated in the Playroom. From September 2026, 9 children will be registered for the Montessori room.

Supporting documentation submitted

Email evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 30 has been addressed.