

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:	Patricik Gabriel Bradley				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	11/12/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>22</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	22	PM	N/A
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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, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Finnegan Hayes
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

Doreen's Preschool Montessori is a privately operated sessional service located in a residential area in North Dublin. The service is comprised of two classrooms in separate buildings to the rear of the registered provider's home. The service is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 31 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 12-3pm over 38 weeks of the year in line with the programme rules. An enclosed outdoor area is available on the grounds of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider employs four staff to work directly with the children in the service and also works in the service herself. Three staff were present on the day of inspection including the registered provider.

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 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, 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, 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-

- (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. Staff in the service work a set shift and are present for the duration of the session meaning both persons in charge are present during the opening hours of the service.

(2) Discussion with the registered provider showed there are currently 5 staff employed to work in the service. The files of all 5 staff were reviewed.

(a)(b) Ten written and verified references were available in relation to 5 adults employed in the service.

(c) Garda vetting was available for all 5 staff members.

(d) There was no evidence to show that any staff member required police vetting.

(4) Evidence was available to show that 5 staff who worked directly with the children held 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.

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 an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children in the service; three staff were working directly with 22 children aged 2 years 10months- 4years.
- (3) Ratios were observed to be maintained in the service. The following was observed;
- In the Playgroup room two adults were caring for 14 children aged 2years 10 months-3 years old.
 - In the Montessori room one adult was caring for 8 children aged 3-4 years old.

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

Compliance Information

- (1)(k) A sample of 10 accident and incident records were reviewed. All records were completed in full and contained the required information.

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 button operated lock which staff can open from the care room prevented unknown persons entering the premises while a release button which is out of reach of the children prevented children leaving the premises unnoticed.
- Water was thermostatically controlled to prevent scalding.
- Cleaning supplies were stored out of reach of the children.
- Toys and equipment were maintained in good condition free from hazards.

Infection Control:

- Cleaning checklists which were complete to date were displayed in the care rooms.
- A sandpit in the outdoor area was fitted with a lid to prevent contamination from animals.
- Windows were observed to be open to allow fresh air to circulate in the care rooms.

Fire Safety:

- Staff were knowledgeable of the procedure for fire evacuation.
- Fire exits were unobstructed during the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Toilet roll and paper handtowels were not hygienically dispensed in the sanitary areas. Toilet roll was observed to sit on top of the water heater or sink in the toilets in the Montessori room while a roll of paper towels was stored on the counter beside the sink. Frequent touching of the toilet rolls and hand towel roll posed an infection control risk.
2. The bin in the sanitary area was not lidded. A pedal operated lidded bin is required for disposal of contaminated items such as nose tissues.

Fire Safety:

3. Attendance records in the Montessori room were not observed to be completed on the day of inspection. The roll book was checked at 9:45am and again at 10:40am and the attendance of the 8 children who

were present had not been recorded. Accurate attendance records are required to ensure that all children are evacuated safely in the event of a fire emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Toilet Roll Holders have been fitted in all toilet cubicles. Problem won't arise in future as the toilet roll holders are a permanent fixtures.
2. Paper towel dispensers have been installed in both playroom and Montessori. Problem won't arise in future as the dispensers are permanent fixtures.

Fire Safety:

3. Lidded pedal bins have been provided in toilets. We will ensure that a lidded pedal bin is always available for the disposal of tissues.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of above have been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances under 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) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were trained in First Aid Response (FAR). The certificates of two staff members were reviewed.
- (2) (a)(b) The registered provider ensured that a suitably equipped first aid box was stored safely out of reach of the children but easily accessible if needed.

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.
- (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) The registered provider ensured that a record of fire drills was maintained in the service. The record showed that fire drills were conducted monthly and the last one recorded was on the 21st November 2023.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was available for review in the service. The record showed that the firefighting equipment was last serviced during September 2023 while the smoke alarms were last serviced on 11th November 2023.
- (4) A notice detailing the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire emergency was displayed in both care rooms.