

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY137
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Name of Service:	Maywood Montessori
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Address of Service:	5 Maywood Park, Raheny, Dublin 5.
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Eircode:	D05 PV21
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Name of Registered Provider:	Patricia Duffy
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	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, D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	JA. McKimm
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).

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Description of service

Maywood Montessori is a sessional service that is located on the ground floor of the registered providers home in a residential area of Dublin 8. A secured outdoor area is located to the rear of the premises which is accessed through the care room. Montessori led care is provided to children aged between three and six years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 12.30pm for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

There are two staff employed in the service, the registered provider who is also the person in charge and one staff member.

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 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

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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-

- (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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service has a named designated person in charge and a deputy person in charge. Both were present on the premises on the day of inspection.
 - (b) A review of the roster showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.

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(c) Staff were clear around their roles and responsibilities and reporting structures within the service.

(2) There were no new staff employed in the service since the last inspection on 5 October 2023.

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

(d) Evidence showed that neither adult required police vetting.

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 two adults caring for ten children on the morning of inspection.

(3) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children.

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;

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- (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.
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and
- (c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (3) (c) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were available for review.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of eleven children's registration records were reviewed as part of the inspection. The registered provider ensured a full record (1) (a-h). However, registration records did not include (i) the written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency. It is important to have this included so that swift and prompt medical treatment can be administered to children in an emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

This section has now been added to the registrations records and will be given to all new entrants going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence submitted

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 15 has been addressed.

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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 responsive manner, as a result children were observed to be confident in their environment for example, they chatted comfortably with the inspector about their activities and were keen to talk about their day.
- In line with the services healthy eating policy children were served a fruit snack consisting of melons, apples and bananas provided by the service on the morning of inspection. Staff discussed different types of fruits with the children and encouraged them to taste and sample them.
- 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.
- Children were observed to have the opportunity to move freely through their care room and independently access play equipment of their choice.

Supporting Relationships.

- Children's emotional well-being was supported by staff who showed an interest in children's activities by asking questions, taking part in their play, encouraging them to thank other children who had demonstrated kindness.
- Children's behaviour was managed using positive age-appropriate strategies such as intervening immediately when minor incidents arose, stating clear expected boundaries, and offering comfort when needed.
- The service focused on enhancing the children's emotional well-being. Throughout the daily routine numerous kindness and gratitude giving opportunities were included for example before snack time kindness notes compiled by staff from their observations of children throughout the morning were read

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out to the children who then clapped for their peers. Children were also encouraged to thank their peers who handed out plates at snack time.

- Children's language development was supported through conversations, activity times, circle time, and storytelling activities which were observed during the inspection.

Physical and Material Environment.

- The furniture provided in the 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 this included, mark making equipment, stacking, building, connecting and threading toys to facilitate creative play, and books to facilitate language and early literacy.

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 service entrance was secured on arrival to the service. The registered provider attended the door to allow access. This prevented unauthorised persons entering the service and prevented children from leaving unsupervised.
- Toys and equipment were maintained in good condition free from hazards.
- Flexes and cords were secured safely out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Foot operated pedal bins were in use for the appropriate disposal of waste in the care room and sanitary facilities. These were observed to be in good working order.
- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained in the care room, and the windows were open to allow fresh circulation of air.
- Children's lunches which were brought from home were refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.

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Administration of Medication:

- Medication was observed to be stored safely out of the reach to the children.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed and remained clear throughout the inspection.
- Staff were familiar with the procedure for evacuation during a fire emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety

- An internal door leading to the main house was unsecured which posed a potential risk of children accessing unsuitable areas or materials.

Infection Control

- Children did not wash their hands before snack time on the morning of inspection. Children should be facilitated to wash their hands under thermostatically controlled running water, with liquid soap and paper hand towels provided in line with HSPC guidance in relation to infection control protection measures.

Administration of Medication

- The service did not ensure the safe administration of prescribed emergency medication for one child, evidenced by the fact that the emergency medication for one child had expired. It is acknowledged that during the course of inspection in date medication was received into the service.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- A new door latch has been fitted. This latch is at a height of 5 feet and is therefore inaccessible to the children. Staff have been instructed that this latch must be closed during operating hours of the preschool.

Infection Control:

- The service reinforced the importance of handwashing in its Infection control and Healthy Eating Policy. The "Rufus hand washing routines" are adopted on a daily basis in the service. Visual reminders to wash hands are available throughout the care room along with hand sanitizers which are located at the entrance and exit from the service.

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Administration of Medication:

- The administration of medication policy has been updated to include a review of expiration dates of emergency medication for all children attending the service and this will be implemented with immediate effect and reviewed annually.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence has been submitted.

Administration of Medication:

Documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under regulation 23 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

- There was documentary evidence to show that two adults held certification in First Aid Response training and was rostered to be available at all times to the children attending the service.
- (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.

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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) The records available demonstrated that fire drills are held monthly within the service and the service conducted a fire drill on 2nd March 2026.
- (4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) (b) Records demonstrated that firefighting equipment and smoke alarms had not been serviced annually, with the last service valid until May 2024. It is acknowledged that the registered provider had booked a firefighting equipment service for the week following the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) (b) Firefighting equipment and smoke alarms have been serviced. A contractual arrangement has been established to ensure ongoing servicing of equipment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Firefighting equipment and smoke alarm maintenance certification has been submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 26 has been addressed.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance for a sessional service for 22 children.