

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY137		
Name of Service:	Maywood Montessori		
Address of Service:	5 Maywood Park, Raheny, Dublin 5		
Eircode:	D05 PV21		
Name of Registered Provider:	Patricia Duffy		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	05/10/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM N/A
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.

Description of service

Maywood Montessori is a privately operated preschool service which offers care and education to children aged 3-5 years. The service operates from a room in the registered provider's home. The service operates 9-12:30pm Monday to Friday 38 weeks per year in line with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. There is an enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider works directly with the children in the service and employs one staff member. Both adults were present 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 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*

(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 registered provider ensured there was a named person in charge in the service and a person who can deputise in their absence. The person in charge was present in the service when the inspector arrived and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2) The registered provider advised that two staff work directly with the children in the service. The files of both staff were checked along with a Garda vetting declaration for a company director who resides in the dwelling where the service is located and who was present in the premises on the day of inspection.

(a)(b) Four references were available in relation to the two staff members.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for three adults as outlined above in (2).

(d) A police vetting declaration was available for one staff member who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of more than 6 months.

(4) Evidence was available to show that both staff members held a 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) (3) The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children on the day of inspection and appropriate ratios were maintained. Two adults were working with 13 children.

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:*
- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
 - (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
 - (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
 - (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
 - (e) the facilities available;*
 - (f) the opening hours and fees;*
 - (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
 - (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
 - (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

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

Compliance Information

(1) A registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee was available in the staff files.

(b) The Tusla registration certificate which was displayed in the care room detailed the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services.

(c)(d)(e) The Statement of purpose and function detailed the adult: child ratios in the service, the type of care or programme provided in the service and the facilities available.

(f) ECCE programme information was displayed in the care room and detailed the opening hours and fees of the service.

(g) All policies and procedures required in accordance with Regulation 10 were available.

(h) A daily attendance record was maintained and was observed to be completed in a timely fashion.

(i) A set staff roster was available.

(j) Details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent were available.

(k) An accident book used to record details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service was reviewed.

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.
- A retractable gate which was closed during the inspection prevented children from accessing the main house. This preventative action has been maintained since the last inspection.
- Cleaning spray was stored out of reach of the children.
- The BBQ in the outdoor area was appropriately secured to prevent injury to the children. This preventative action has been maintained since the last inspection.
- Toys and equipment were well maintained and free from hazards.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, dispensed soap and paper handtowels were available to support adequate hand hygiene.
- Pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of contaminated items.
- Children’s lunches which were brought from home were refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.

Fire Safety:

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

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 a person trained in First Aid response was immediately available to the children during the opening hours of the service. The certification of both staff was reviewed.

(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored on a high shelf in the care room out of reach of the children and immediately available to the staff if needed.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was insured. The insurance certificate reviewed showed that the service is insured to provide a sessional service for up to 22 children. The insurance certificate is valid until 27th March 2024.