

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY147
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Naíonra Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gaelscoil Cholmcille, Lána na Cúlóige, Dublin 17, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D17W021
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Emma Beaddie
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Dates of Inspection:</b>	08/10/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	18	PM	7
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á Dunne & Y Kelly
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors

### 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

Naionra Montessori is located in the grounds of Gaelscoil Cholmcille, Coolock, Dublin 17. The premises is a prefabricated building with one classroom and sanitary facilities. The outdoor area is to the rear of the service. A sessional service is provided to children aged between 2 and 5 years old. The service is registered to open from Monday to Friday between 8.30am to 2.30pm - for a morning session 8.30 to 11.30am and for an afternoon session 11.30am to 2.30pm.

### Staffing

The registered provider works in the service and employs two staff members and one relief staff member. On the day of inspection, the registered provider and one staff member 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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations as follows:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4)

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2)

Regulation 15 Record of a Preschool Child

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety

Regulation 28 Insurance

However, on inspection an additional non-compliance was identified under

Regulation 8 Notification of Change in circumstances.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 Record of a Preschool Child.

The scope of the inspection included the one classroom of the service.

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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, the staff member 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 service is currently registered to operate as a sessional service between the hours of 8.30 am and 2.30pm - with a morning session 8.30am to 11.30am and an afternoon session from 11.30am to 2.30pm. On the day of inspection, the service was observed to operate the afternoon session from 12pm to 3pm, with 7 children present in the service. The service was operating outside the registered hours of operation from 8.30 to 2.30pm.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) The registered provider submitted a change in circumstances form, to request the time of the afternoon session to be changed from 11.30am to 2.30pm to now being changed to 12pm start and 3pm finish. The CIC was submitted and approved. Going forward, the registered provider has informed their team that should there be any changes, the service must request approval first by submitting a CIC request.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) Confirmation email from the Agency re approval of the Change in circumstances request.

### Summary Comment

Under Regulation 8, the non-compliance outlined above, has been addressed.

### 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.*

*(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

The files of four adults were reviewed as part of the inspection, to include the registered provider who works in the service, two staff members and one relief staff member.

(2)(a)(b) The registered provider had two written references and ensured that two written and validated references were available in relation to the three adults employed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for four adults. The service also demonstrated compliance, with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no adult had lived outside of the state for a period of more than 6 months.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the four adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs

### 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) On the day of inspection, there were two adults working with 18 children, aged 2 years 8 months to 5 years old, for the morning session from 8.30 am to 11.30 am and two adults working with seven children aged 2 years 8 months to 5 years old for the afternoon session from 12pm to 3pm, with ratios being maintained.

### 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) to (i)

On review of the documentation relating to a sample of ten children's files within the service, the required information and detail was available and completed for each of the 10 files reviewed.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

## Compliance Information

- The room was a bright play space which enabled the children to explore their environment and play with materials which were easily accessible on low level shelves, nurturing childrens independence through the ability to make decisions and develop their play opportunities.
- The range of play materials and equipment was suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending the service. The following were available: a play kitchen with supporting equipment, a dolls house with supporting equipment, trains, tracks, cars, trucks, small play people, animals, building blocks, plastic bricks, magnetics, wooden puzzles, jigsaws and art materials including an art easel.
- The furniture provided was low level and suitable to the needs and age of the children. There were a sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played and ate in the classroom.
- Artwork of an autumn tree and painted squirrels where on display in the classroom.
- Each child's identity and belonging were reinforced within the service classroom with the use of pictures of the children and their extended family displayed on the wall. This can provide familiarity and comfort to children.
- A cosy area with a couch and books for rest and relaxation were present.

## 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:

- On arrival to the service, the inspector observed, the entrance gate was secure with a buzzer release system and the door of the service was locked. Access to the service via the entrance gate was monitored by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and preventing children from leaving the service unsupervised. The outdoor play area was secure, for outdoor play.
- Attendance records were available for review, completed and accurate.
- The play equipment and materials observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The temperature of the classroom was recorded as 21.1°C at 10.47am, within the recommended ambient temperature of 18 - 22 °C.

##### Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap and dispensed handtowels were available in the sanitary facilities.
- Children lunches which were brought from home, were refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.
- Lidded pedal operated bins were available for disposal of contaminated items.

## 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

(2)(a) (b) A first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the front room and in the event of an emergency was available to the staff caring for the children in the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection, there was no person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) training available to the children. A sufficient number of adults must be trained with First Aid Responder training and available to children at all times to include cover of appointments, leave and breaks. It is acknowledged that the registered provider and two staff had valid Paediatric first aid training.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) First Aid Responder Training has been booked for 14 December 2024 and 11 and 18 of January 2025 to be completed on by three staff of the service. Going forward this will not happen again as all the staff of the service will all have First Aid Responder Training. Every two years going forward once all staff are qualified in First Aid Responder Training, staff will complete a refresher course and renew their First Aid Response certification.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(1) Receipt of payment for proof of booking First Aid responder training

### Summary Comment

The non-compliance outlined above, under Regulation 25, has been adequately addressed.

### 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 record of fire drills was available on the premises with the last drill dated as having been carried out on the 27 September 2024.
  - (b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. Firefighting equipment was last serviced on the 28 August 2024 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on the 27 June 24.
  - (4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed throughout the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Evidence of insurance cover was available to demonstrate there was cover for a maximum of 22 children for each session with an expiry date of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024.