

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY172	
Name of Service:	Prospect Montessori	
Address of Service:	1 St. Therasas Place, Prospect Avenue, Glasnevin, Dublin 9	
Eircode:	D09 K656	
Name of Registered Provider:	Marie Hughes	
Service type:	Sessional	
Date of Inspection:	01/10/2025	
No of pre-school children:	AM	10
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Area 1 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K	
Inspection undertaken by:	T Nelson	
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

Prospect Montessori is a sessional care service located in a residential area on the north side of Dublin city and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 18 children aged 2 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday during term time.

Prospect Montessori operates from a building to the side of a residential dwelling and has one care room with access to sanitary facilities directly off the room. A fully enclosed outdoor area is directly accessible from the care room.

Staffing

The registered provider employs two staff to work in the service. On the morning of the inspection there were two staff present, the registered provider was not present but does normally work in the service.

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 9, 11, 16, 21, 23, 25 and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under Regulation 8. This finding is outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16(1)(h)(j)(k) Records in relation to Preschool 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.

Additional Information

A Regulatory Compliance Meeting (RCM) was held on the 14 November 2025 to discuss an outstanding non-compliance.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the deputy 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 registered provider did not notify the agency of the change in opening hours of the service. The service is registered to operate from 9.30am to 12.30pm but observation and documentary evidence indicate that the service operates from 9.00am to 12.00pm.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A CIC was submitted, and the registered provider offered assurances that the service is operating within their conditions of their planning permission.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence from the local planning authority.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the 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) The registered provider ensured that:

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A review of the staff attendance log showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place, and staff reported being aware of this.

(2) It was established that there was no staff new to the service since the last inspection held on the 16 March 2023.

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

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) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults available to the children attending the service to meet their care needs. There were 2 staff available to the 10 children present on the morning of the inspection.
- (3) The adult to child ratios were maintained correctly throughout the inspection. Staff were observed to move between the inside and outside environment to ensure ratios were maintained.

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) The registered provider maintained the following records:

- (a) Details of the name, position, qualifications, and experience of all staff were maintained within the staff files.
- (b) The service Tusla certificate detailed the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services. This was displayed in the hallway of the service.
- (c) The statement of purpose and function outlined the adult: child ratios.
- (d) The statement of purpose and function outlined the type of care or programme provided.
- (e) The statement of purpose and function outlined the facilities available within the service.
- (f) There was documentation displayed in the hallway outlining the opening hours and fees of the service.
- (g) The registered provider maintained all the policies required in accordance with Regulation 10.
- (h) An attendance record detailing the daily arrival and departure of the children was maintained.
- (i) A record was maintained of the staff roster which was reflective of the staff present on the day.
- (j) The staff confirmed that no medication is administered to the children within the service.
- (k) The service maintained a record keeping system for the purpose of recording any accidents or incidents within the service. It was established there had been one recent incident, for which there was record available and this was completed in full.

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 registered provider ensured there was adequate and suitable furniture and equipment available to the children in both the indoor and outdoor play environments:

- The furniture provided in the room was low level and appropriate for the age and stage of children attending.
- The furniture and equipment were observed to be well maintained and in good working order.
- Toys, equipment and play materials were easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units.
- There was defined areas of interest in the room.
- There was an adequate supply of toys and resources available to support a range of play experiences.
- The outdoor environment was well resourced with a construction area, tabletop activity area, outdoor kitchen with range of props and well-resourced sand play.

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

The following measures were observed in place to safeguard children:

General Safety:

- The entrance to the service was secured on arrival and throughout the inspection. The door latch was managed by staff and was up high out of reach of children. This restricted entry by unauthorised persons and prevented children from exiting unsupervised.
- The cord from the speaker was observed to be secured out of reach of children.
- There was a mat on the floor by the outdoor play area and a staff member was observed to clean the floor immediately after snack time. These steps minimised the risk of slips.
- Staff were observed to adequately supervise the children while they moved freely between the indoor and outdoor play areas.

Infection Control:

- Appropriate foot pedal operated bins were in place in the care room and sanitary area.
- Liquid soap, hygienically dispensed paper towels and thermostatically controlled warm water was available at all sinks used by the staff and children.
- Tables were wiped down, and children were supported to hand wash prior to snack time.
- The sanitary areas were adequately ventilated with mechanical ventilation in operation.

Fire Safety:

- The emergency exits were observed to be unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A child was observed to have whole grapes for their lunch. This presented a potential choke risk to the child. It is acknowledged the grapes were cut in half by a staff member when brought to their attention. Evidence was submitted the day after the inspection that parents have been reminded to ensure they follow safe food guidance when sending in packed lunches.
2. A cleaning detergent in a spray bottle was observed to be stored within reach of the children. This posed a potential risk of harm should children access this.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A reminder was sent to parents on the day of the inspection advising them of safe food guidelines for young children. The service report they will ensure to check children such boxes and cut any fruit into suitable bite size.
2. There is a designated shelf over the sink for the storage of cleaning products. The daily risk assessment details a check for the safe storage of cleaning products.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Evidence of reminder sent to parents.
2. Evidence of daily checklist, photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the 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

(1) The registered provider presented evidence that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available during the operational hours of the pre-school.

(2) The registered provider ensured that:

(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in the care room, visible to the staff.

(b) The first aid box was easily accessible and readily available.

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) The registered provider ensured that:
- (a) A record of fire drills was available on the premises and records showed these were carried out monthly.
 - (b) An up-to-date maintenance record was available for the Fire extinguishers which were maintained on the 27 October 2024.
- (4) A procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in the care room.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider did not ensure the following:
- (b) There was no evidence that the smoke alarms had been recently maintained. It is acknowledged that evidence was submitted that the smoke alarms had been maintained the day after the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider arranged for a new contractor to ensure the maintenance of the smoke alarms, and an up-to-date maintenance certificate was submitted the day after the inspection.

Supporting documentation submitted

Maintenance certificate of smoke alarms.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the action and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 26 has been adequately addressed.