

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY174
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Name of Service:	Raheny Montessori
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Address of Service:	Raheny GAA, All Saints Drive, Saint Anne's Estate, Raheny, Dublin 5.
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Eircode:	D05 WF44
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Singleton
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	13/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21
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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 D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	L.A Webster
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

Raheny Montessori is a privately run service which is registered to operate on a sessional basis. The service is located in the hall of a GAA club in a residential area in North Dublin. The service operates the Early childhood care & Education (ECCE) scheme from 9am-12:30pm Monday to Friday 38 weeks per year in line with the programme rules. An enclosed outdoor space is provided to the side of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider employs two staff members namely two deputy persons in charge, that work directly with the children. On the morning of inspection, the two deputy persons in charge 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 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 deputy persons in charge, 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-

- (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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 that there were two deputy persons in charge. Discussions and documentary evidence showed that the named deputy persons in charge were rostered on the premises for the duration of the service times.

- (2) Discussion with both deputy persons in charge showed that there are currently two staff members employed to work within the service. There was no evidence to suggest that any new staff had commenced employment following the previous inspection on the 23 November 2023. Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all staff that are currently employed within the service.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and two staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that two staff members who worked directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification that is deemed of equivalence by the minister

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.*
- (2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) On the morning of inspection, there were 21 children being cared for by 2 adults in the morning.
- (2) The adult 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 the children within the room.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

Basic Needs

- Individually labelled beakers of water were available to the children at all times.
- Children were observed to move freely around the room and engage with their choice of activities.

Supporting Relationships

- Staff were observed to be kind, engaging, respectful and caring towards their interactions with the children, which created a calm and nurturing atmosphere within the care room.
- Lunchtime was observed to be an engaging experience for the children as staff sat with them and engaged in a range of conversations.
- Transitions throughout the inspection were observed to be smooth and considerate, for example, children were gently prepared and directed to the exit door at the end of the session.

Physical and Material Environment

- Play areas were designated and themed to invite children to engage in their chosen area.
- A daily routine was displayed within the care room.
- Toys were documented as developmentally age appropriate for the children and in good condition.
- Children were observed to play independently with the materials and sought support from staff when needed.
- Adequately sized chairs and tables were available to the age and developmental stage of children who wished to engage in tabletop activities.
- Both the book area and home corner provided various supporting resources that ensured fun, imaginative play for the children.

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 service was appropriately secured upon the inspectors' arrival. The service entrance operated through a buzzer system that allowed entry into a main hallway and a second door is securely locked to prevent children from leaving the service unsupervised and restrict any unauthorised access to the service.
- The care room was in good condition, with no visible hazards or trailing wires observed.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to children and the door remained closed throughout the inspection.
- In discussion with staff, the service operates a nut free zone and a popcorn free zone.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap and wall mounted paper towels were available for appropriate hand-washing practices. Both staff and children were observed to show familiarity with routine handwashing after play time, and before lunch time.
- Children's lunches were brought from home and were observed to be appropriately refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.
- Foot operated pedal bins were in use for the appropriate disposal of waste in the sanitary facilities. These were observed to be in good working order.
- An ambient temperature of 16-22°C was maintained within the care room.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of inspection. Through discussion, staff were familiar with the practices required for the administration of medication to children attending the service.
- Observation showed that medication was stored safely, in date and out of reach of children.

Fire Safety:

- All fire emergency exit doors were clear from obstruction. This helped ensure the safe effective evacuation of children and staff in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Three play mats that are used within the cosy corner and book corner were observed to be in a poor state of repair. This posed a cross-contamination risk to the children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The soft area mat has been replaced with two large soft cushions and a new foam floor mat. Soft furnishings will be checked bi-weekly and replaced at the first signs of disrepair.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions provided by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances identified 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 the deputy persons in charge were trained in First Aid Response (FAR), expiry date of December 2027 and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2) (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, and unobstructed if needed to access quickly.

(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available at all times to the adults caring for children attending the service.

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.

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 the 12 January 2026.
 - (b) A record was available detailing the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm systems in the premises.
 - Records demonstrated that the firefighting equipment had been serviced annually, with the last service taking place on the December 2025
 - Records demonstrated that the smoke alarms have been serviced on a quarterly basis with the last service taking place on the 06 November 2025.

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 pre-school service was adequately insured, with an expiry date of 27 November 2026.