

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:	23/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	4
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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
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.
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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 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 to work in the service and also works directly with the children. All three staff 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, 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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider during the inspection in relation to non-compliance under Regulation 23 Safety and Regulation 25 First aid. A response which adequately addressed the concerns was received on 24th November 2023.

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 service had a designated person in charge and a named persons who could deputise if required.

Discussion with staff showed that the person in charge or a named deputy is rostered to be on the premises for the duration of the service opening hours.

(2) Discussion with the registered provider showed there are currently 3 staff members employed to work in the service. The files of 3 staff members were reviewed.

(a)(b) Six written and verified references were available in relation to 3 staff members currently employed in the service.

(c) Garda vetting was available for 3 staff members.

(d) There was no evidence to indicate that police vetting was required for any staff member.

(4) Evidence was available to show that 2 staff who worked directly with the children held 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(4) Evidence was not available to show that one staff member who worked directly with the children held 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.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(4) The staff member enrolled in a level 5 Early Childhood Care and Education programme on 24.11.2023 and will complete it in due course. We were unaware the qualification was not sufficient. The staff member will carry out other duties such as paperwork and curriculum planning until the course is complete.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation in relation to course enrolment was submitted.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance under Regulation 9.

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 there was adequate adults available to the children at all times during the day for example three adults were working directly with 18 children on the morning of inspection.
- (3) Ratios were maintained in the service; two qualified staff members were working directly with the 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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child 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 ensured that records were kept in relation to the following;
- (h) A roll book was available to record the daily attendance of the children.
 - (j) A template was available to record medication given to the children. Staff advised they have not had to administer medication to any child this year.
 - (k) An accident record book was available. Staff advised they have not had any accidents this year.

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)

Basic Needs

- Lunches which are provided by the parents are encouraged to be in line with the service healthy eating policy. Children were observed to eat a range of food during lunchtime including sandwiches, yoghurts, and fruit.
- Water was available in individually labelled beakers.

Physical and Material environment

- Low level tables and chairs allowed children to engage in mealtimes and tabletop activities comfortably.

- A daily routine was displayed in the care room.
- Toys and equipment were stored on low shelves or in large toy boxes at a level accessible to the children.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

1. Staff were not observed to actively engage with the children's play or sit with the children during mealtimes which is not in line with best practice or the service policy. Staff were observed to walk around the room or stand near children while they engaged in activities and mealtimes. Engaging in children's play allows staff to extend children's learning experiences while sitting with them at mealtimes allows opportunities for conversation and positive role modelling of pro social behaviour.
2. A selection of books which were available to the children were not displayed in a way which allowed the children to identify a book and select it for reading. The books were observed to be haphazardly stacked face down on a small bookshelf. This limited the children's opportunity to explore language and literacy through books.
3. The home corner did not provide adequate supporting equipment to allow children to engage fully in imaginative play experiences for example supporting equipment for the play kitchen was limited to one pot and an ice cream scoop. During feedback staff reported that other supporting equipment may have been put in other toys boxes by the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Staff members will ensure that they are sitting with children eating lunch and actively engaging with them through play instead of performing an observational role. Staff members will be asked at staff meetings to reflect on how they could engage with the children in a more beneficial way and they will be encouraged by management to demonstrate positive role modelling for the children by participating in their play and learning throughout the day.
2. A new library stand has been purchased which allows the service to display the books in a more organised fashion therefore allowing the children to select a book with ease. Staff members will encourage children to tidy the library throughout the day and also assist them to display the books in an orderly fashion.
3. New plastic food, cutlery and kitchen utensils have been purchased and the service will ensure they are kept in their designated box which is kept beside the home area. Staff members will be sure to look through all boxes at the end of the day to make sure utensils will not be misplaced allowing us to maintain sufficient amounts of supporting play materials.

Supporting documentation submitted

Images have been reviewed in relation to above.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 19.

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 with staff attending the door to allow access. Exit is managed through a button release which is out of reach of the children.
- The kitchen door was securely locked to prevent access by the children.
- Staff were observed to accompany children to the sanitary facilities which were outside the care room which ensured adequate supervision.
- Toys and equipment were observed to be maintained free of hazards.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled hot water and dispensed soap were available to support adequate hand hygiene.
- Handwashing was observed to be done before meals times.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exit doors were unobstructed both internally and externally on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The mats in the cosy area were observed to be visibly dirty. Records of cleaning for the mats were not available. This posed an infection control risk.

Administration of Medication:

2. A health care plan detailing the signs and symptoms or the steps to be taken in the event of an emergency was not available for a child who required emergency medication. This may impede the child receiving adequate care in the event of an emergency situation occurring. An immediate action notice was issued to the provider during the inspection.
3. A medication consent form was not available for a child who required emergency medication. Written consent from the child's parents/ guardians is required for all medication.
4. Medication was not available onsite for a child who required emergency medication. When asked where the medication was located a staff member advised it was in the side of the first aid bag. When the inspector could not find the medication in the bag the staff member checked and then remembered that it had been sent home days earlier as it was out of date and a new medication had not been provided. This posed the risk of the child not receiving adequate care in the event of an emergency.
5. An unlabelled prescription medication was observed in a box which was at a low level accessible to the children. Staff were initially unsure of who owned the medication when asked. This is not in line with the service policy for storage of medication and posed the potential risk of children accessing the medication.

Fire Safety:

6. Attendance records were not completed contemporaneously on the day of inspection for example the departure time was not recorded for twelve children who left the service at 12pm and two children who left the service at 12:10pm. Attendance records should reflect the number of children present in the service to ensure safe and timely evacuation in the event of a fire emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The mats will be cleaned more regularly to ensure the risk of infection control is minimal. A record of mat cleaning has been included in the daily/weekly cleaning schedule.

Administration of Medication:

2. A health care plan has been devised, reviewed and signed by the parent and medical practitioner. Should children with a health issue enrol in the future, a specific plan will be devised by staff and parents to ensure adequate care at all times.

3. A specific medication consent form has been devised and signed by the parent. Separate medications consent forms relating to specific medications will be created and signed by parents should a child requiring a specific medication enrol.
4. All medication has been placed in a separate labelled box and will be checked regularly by staff to ensure its contents is fit for purpose. Medication related to specific conditions will be kept within the labelled box with expiry dates recorded on the label therefore ensuring they are replaced before expiry.
5. Medication belonging to staff members will be kept amongst their personal belongings such as in their handbags and stored out of reach of children at all times. Personal medications belonging to staff will be kept separate from children's medications and within their personal belongings such as a bag. All staff will ensure to adhere to keeping medication out of sight and reach of children at all times.

Fire Safety:

6. Management will ensure attendance is recorded immediately regardless of inspections. All staff members will be permitted to make a record of children's attendance to ensure a safe and timely exit should an emergency take place.

Supporting documentation submitted

Images in relation to above have been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed 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

(2)(a)(b) An adequately stocked first aid box was available in the care room. This was stored appropriately out of reach of the children but immediately available to the staff as needed.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) Evidence was not available to show that a staff member trained in First Aid Response (FAR) was immediately available to the children in the service during the opening hours of the service. An immediate action notice was issued to the provider.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) A First Aid Responder course was undertaken by all 3 staff members and have been certified as of 05/12/2023. The FAR certificate dates will be recorded, and a reminder will be set for 18 months time to allow staff to complete a refresher before the certificates expire therefore ensuring at least one member of staff certified in FAR will be available to the children at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

Email correspondence was reviewed.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 25.