

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY181				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Seafield Montessori				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	48 Seafield Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3, Co. Dublin				
<b>Eircode:</b>	D03 F252				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Bridie Pender				
<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional				
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/12/2024				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>18</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	18	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Hosford
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>	
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

Seafield Montessori School is a private service operating a sessional and part time service from 9am-2pm Monday to Friday for children aged between 3-5 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and provides a service to school age children.

The service operates from a purpose-built care room to the rear of the registered providers residential home on the north side of Dublin City. The service has access to an enclosed outdoor play area to the front of the care room.

### Staffing

The service employs four staff to include the registered provider and three childcare staff. There were two staff and one student working with the children attending the service 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

The inspection was unannounced and focused on an examination of compliance under:

- Regulation 9(2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) Management and Recruitment,
- Regulation 11(1)(2)(8)(a) Staffing Levels,

- Regulation 15 (1)(a)-(i), Record of a pre school child,
- Regulation 19(1)(a) Health, Welfare and Development of child,
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child,
- Regulation 25 First Aid and
- Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures.

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

*(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

(2) The staff files of four staff and one student in the service were reviewed.

(a) The following references were available from a past employer.

- Two validated written references for two staff members along with one validated written reference for one staff member.

(b) The following references were available from a source other than a past employer

- Two validated written references for the registered provider and one staff member.
- One validated written reference for one staff member.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for four staff members and one student. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was not required as documentary evidence available demonstrated that no staff members or student had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) On review of documentation available four staff members working with the children had evidence to demonstrate that they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection. There were 2 adults and 1 student caring for 18 children aged from 3 to 6 years of age during the inspection.

(8)(a) Two adults were present on the premises during the operation of the service.

### 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 complete.

### 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 Montessori method of education was followed by the service with all the materials in the care room reflective of this approach. The children could access clearly displayed areas to include practical life (bowls, jugs with water, pegs, tweezers), sensorial (pink tower, board stairs, knobbed cylinder), language (pencils, paper, books, picture and object boxes), culture (world globe, maps), math's (number rods, abacus and counting pegs).

- The service had rest areas available to the children to include soft seating and mats if a child was tired and required a break.
- The enclosed outdoor play area consisted of an artificial grass and concrete paved surface. The children had access to activities and materials such as a planting wall with pots, seating area with picnic tables, activity wall, space for games and running.

### 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 main door into the service was locked throughout the inspection and the external gate in the outdoor area was appropriately secured to reduce the risk of a child exiting the service unsupervised and the unauthorised entry of an adult.
- All cleaning equipment and materials were stored out of children's reach.

##### Infection Control:

- There were adequate facilities for hand hygiene to include warm water, liquid soap, paper towels and closed lid pedal bins. Children washed their hands before snack, after outdoor play and after using the toilet.
- Children's perishable food from home was refrigerated on arrival to the service.

##### Fire Safety:

- Records available demonstrated that fire drills take place in the service monthly in the morning and afternoon session.
- The designated fire exit was illuminated and clear of any obstructions throughout the inspection.

## 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) and (b) A first aid box was available in the service and suitably equipped and accessible to the adults responsible for caring for the children attending the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) A person trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) certification was not available to the children during the operation of the service. It is acknowledged that two staff trained in paediatric first aid with an expiry date of December 2025 and June 2026 were available during the operation of the service.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) In response to the non-compliance the registered provider has stated that a first aid responder course (FAR) was attended on 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024. To prevent the reoccurrence of the non-compliance the service will ensure that staff attend a FAR course and not a Paediatric first aid going forward and this must be completed every two years.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(1) Email confirmation of attendance at a FAR course 6,7 and 8 December 2024.

### Summary Comment

The non-compliance has been addressed by the registered provider.

## 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
  - (b) an employee, and
  - (c) an authorised person.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation
- (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 was maintained of the fire drills undertaken in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 3 December 2024.
- (b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. The equipment was serviced on the 11 September 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to follow in the event of a fire was displayed on the premises.