

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY243
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Great Beginnings Montessori
-------------------------	-----------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Presentation Primary School, Terenure Road West, Terenure, Dublin 6W, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

<b>Eircode:</b>	D6WAW64
-----------------	---------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Orla Kavanagh
-------------------------------------	---------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	27/05/2025
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Brunel Building Heuston South Quarter Saint John's Road West Dublin 8. D08 X01F
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	R. Duff
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

Great Beginnings Montessori is a privately operated early years' service, located in a room within the Presentation Primary School in Terenure. The early years' service is registered to provide sessional care to children aged 2-6 years from 8:30am to 12.00pm daily, over a 38-week, in conjunction with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. Care of the children is provided in one large open plan room. An outdoor area is provided on the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider and a second adult are employed in the service and 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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The following regulations were reviewed:

Regulation 9 (1)(2)(3) and (4)-Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels.

Regulation 15 Record of a preschool child

Regulation 19 (1)(b) Health, welfare and development of child.

Regulation 20 (1)(b) Facilities for rest and play

Regulation 23 Safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of child.

Regulation 28-Insurance.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 and 23.

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 member 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
- (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-

- (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.

(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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

No new staff had started working in the service since the last inspection on 24/01/2022. The inspection included a review of Garda vetting disclosures for both staff.

(a)(b)

Written and validated references were reviewed on a previous inspection on 18/06/2019.

(c)  
Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the 2 staff members employed to work in the service. 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 for staff members as neither staff had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(4)  
Records were available evidencing that 2 staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

### 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)  
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2)  
The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 15 children attending the service being supervised by 2 adults on the day of inspection.

### 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.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The records of 10 children who were attending the service were reviewed and contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.
- (f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.

(g) The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner was available.

(h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.

(4) The registered provider was aware that the records referred to above must be retained for a period of two years after the child leaves the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

(i) There was no written parental consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency. This could pose a potential risk to a child in receiving appropriate medical treatment in the event of an emergency. Staff discussed the procedure for administering medication including having prior consent before any medication can be administered. On the day of inspection, the service did not have written consent from parents to administer emergency medication. This is at variance to the services medication policy.

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

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The registered provider has stated that the consent form has been updated to include consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Supporting documentation was submitted by the registered provider and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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

A busy and welcoming atmosphere was evident on arrival at the service and throughout the inspection. Children were engaged in a range of Montessori and play based activities and had the opportunity to move freely to a new activity. Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed children

by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. Language used by the staff members was observed to be encouraging, supportive and informative. Identity and belonging were promoted in the classroom with children's family photos, and artwork displayed on the walls of the care room and visible to children.

Children were given advance warnings to support transitions to a new activity and to remind them of snack time. Drinks were readily available within the care room. The children brought snacks from home. Snack time was a social occasion with children and adults sitting together having the opportunity to chat about the morning. The service has a healthy eating policy which is shared with parents/guardians in advance of enrolment.

Child sized tables and chairs allowed the children to eat and engage in tabletop activities. There was evidence that equipment and materials provided were based on the children's individual needs and emergent interests. The room had a mix of Montessori materials, toys and equipment which were laid out on low level shelving units and accessible to children. The room also had cushions and floor mats to facilitate rest or provide a place for children to take a break from activities.

The service has a scheduled time for use of the outdoor area as it is shared with the primary school.

Engagement with families and parents is facilitated by the daily sharing of information on the child's day. This is shared through conversations at drop off and collection and supported by electronic means. On the day of inspection transitions from preschool to home were observed to be friendly and informative to parents or guardians collecting 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:

- When the inspector arrived at the service, access to the main door was monitored and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorized persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. In addition, the outdoor play area was securely gated restricting unauthorized persons from gaining access to this area and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Toys and equipment were maintained in good condition free from hazards.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.

- The outdoor area was observed to be suitable and safe with domestic bins stored out of children's reach and all outdoor play materials maintained and in good condition free from hazards.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a locked press or out of reach of children.

### Infection Control:

- Both the indoor and outdoor environment were maintained in a clean condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and pedal operated bins.
- The children and adults washed their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection.

### Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.

### Outing:

Staff confirmed during discussions with the inspector that outings are completed with the children at the end of the school year. A completed risk assessment and permission from parents, was available to ensure the safe conduct of outings with the children. The outings policy and procedure which outlined the requirement for pre-consent and a risk assessment prior to the outing commencing was available for inspection.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. Children's lunch boxes containing whole grapes and popcorn were handed out to children at snack time. Whole grapes and popcorn pose a potential risk of choking to children. This is at variance with the healthy eating policy which states that popcorn is not permitted in the service.

### Administration of Medication:

2. Temperature reducing medication was not available in the service on the day of inspection, this poses a potential risk to a child if they required emergency temperature reducing medication.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

### General Safety:

1. The registered provider has stated that a reminder notice has been issued to all parents reminding them of the healthy eating policy and also the importance of cutting up food that could be a potential choking hazard such as cherry tomatoes and grapes, Lunch boxes will be checked daily before being handed out to children.

**Administration of Medication:**

The registered provider stated that temperature reducing medication has been purchased for the service.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

No supporting documentation was submitted.

**Administration of Medication:**

No supporting documentation was submitted.

**Summary Comment**

The regulatory requirement has been met. The actions outlined by the provider will be assessed on the next inspection of the service.

**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 the sessional service was insured. The insurance certificate provided for review showed cover for the 22 children and an expiry date of 27 March 2026.