

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

waterTUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY262
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Name of Service:	Forget-me-not Montessori School
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Address of Service:	St. John Bosco Centre, Davitt Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D12 EDN2
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Name of Registered Provider:	Maria Pettersson
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	24/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	N/A
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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:	H Sutherland
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

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Forget Me Not Montessori is a privately owned early years service, located in an urban, residential area in Drimnagh, Dublin 12. Care and education are provided on a sessional basis to children aged between 2 and 6 years from 9.00am to 12.00pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from a secured, partitioned area of a large room within the St John Bosco Community Centre. The children have access to a large indoor hall and a small sheltered outdoor area.

Staffing

The registered provider operates the service single-handedly. A second adult was available to assist the registered provider in the event of an emergency.

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

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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 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*

(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.

Compliance Information

(2) Following a discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that one adult commenced the role of the emergency cover person since the last inspection on 25 September 2023. Documentation required under Regulation 9 (2) and (3) was reviewed for the adult. Garda vetting for one staff member, whose disclosure was identified as due for renewal was also requested for review.

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- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for two adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a) (b) Although there were two references available for one adult, they had not been verified by the registered provider.
- (3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified above under Regulation 9(2)(a),(b) had not been carried out prior to one adult being assigned a role in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has obtained verification for both references and has ordered reference validation forms to use going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy two reference verifications

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 (2) (a)(b) and (3) have been adequately addressed.

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

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(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

- (1) Appropriate staffing was in place, with one adult working directly with the children.
- (3) The adult to child ratio was maintained for the duration of the inspection. There were eight children under the supervision of one adult.
- (8) (c) A person familiar with the operation of the service, was within close distance and available to assist the registered provider in the event of an emergency.

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

The registered provider ensured that each child's learning, development, and wellbeing were facilitated as follows:

Children were observed eating sandwiches, fruit, yogurts, crackers, and cheese for their snack, which was provided by their parents. Drinking water was available to the children, and children were provided with their water bottles at snack time. During snack time, children sat together in a family-style setting and engaged in conversation, discussing their food and home life. The registered provider joined the conversations; these interactions support the development of children's social skills. Children were supported to develop self-care skills during the daily routine, such as tidying up following activities, using the toilet independently, and managing their own belongings. An area with child-size armchairs was available for children to rest if required.

Adult-child interactions were observed to be warm and responsive, and children were supported to find positive solutions when they experienced challenges in sharing play equipment and turn taking. The registered provider

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was observed to promptly intervene when required, explaining turn-taking in a child-friendly manner. Children demonstrated a sense of pride in their success during the session and were observed calling the registered provider, who readily acknowledged their accomplishments. This was observed when children were taking part in walking on different surfaces on a balance beam. Communication with parents is facilitated at drop-off and collection. The registered provider stated that parents have the opportunity to talk about their child both formally and informally. The opportunity for parents to have an informal exchange of information was observed at collection time.

There was a range of developmentally appropriate materials for children in the indoor environment, including small world, construction materials, Montessori equipment, a kitchen with props, a library with a range of books to support language development, and a variety of puzzles and manipulative materials. The materials were stored on open, low level storage units, and children were observed to access play items with ease. They acted out real life experiences, for example, making meals and working in a pizza shop. Construction materials were used to create structures, supporting the development of children's imagination and fine motor skills. The registered provider used times where children were playing with puzzles as learning moments, teaching children numbers and colours, supporting the development of their vocabulary. There were two alternative play spaces available to support children in engaging in energetic play. These included a large indoor hall and a small outdoor area. During the inspection, children were observed running, jumping, and dancing while playing in the hall, which supported the development of their gross motor skills and self-expression.

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 adequately secured to prevent unauthorised access to the service or children leaving unsupervised.
- Cleaning products were stored safely out of reach of children in a separate kitchen.

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- Daily inspections of the indoor and outdoor area took place in the service, as evidenced by documented risk assessments.
- Toys and equipment used by the children were in good condition.

Infection Control:

- Pedal operated bins were in use in the bathroom and preschool room to support the safe disposal of waste.
- There were procedures in place for the laundering of fabric materials, such as dress up items.
- The preschool room was clean and well maintained, and documented cleaning schedules were available for review.
- Liquid soap, warm water, and single use paper towels were available to support effective hand washing.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication is not administered in the service; however, the registered provider detailed the procedures for administering medication, and a medication record book was available for use should it be required.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency doors were kept clear to allow for timely evacuation in the event of an emergency.
- The registered provider outlined the procedure to safely evacuate children from the service in the event of a fire.
- A fire evacuation procedure was on display in the preschool, and the registered provider stated that fire drills are carried out regularly.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

Children were not provided with the opportunity to wash their hands before their snack. Although handwashing facilities were available, children were provided with hand sanitiser to clean their hands before their snack. This practice can increase the risk of the spread of infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

The registered provider stated that the children are now washing their hands before their snack and the service's hygiene policy has been updated to reflect this practice.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

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Record of the updated text in the policy

Image of the sanitary facilities

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The service was adequately insured, evidenced by a current certificate of insurance relevant to the type of service being operated.