

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY268
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	High Hopes Montessori and After School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Harolds Cross National School, Clareville Road, Harolds Cross, Dublin 6w, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D6W FR66
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mark Glynn
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	12/03/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	20	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L. Magee
<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
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### Description of service

High Hopes Montessori is located on the grounds of Harold Cross primary school in Harolds Cross, Dublin 6. The early years service operates a part time and sessional service between 8.30am – 1.10pm, Monday to Friday during the school term for children aged 2 and 8 months to 6 years. The care and education programme is delivered in one of the care rooms within the school. An enclosed outdoor area is available for the pre-school service.

### Staffing

There are four adults employed in the service. The registered provider is the principal of the primary school and is present on a daily basis. Two adults working in the service had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications. Two adults had a qualification deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the requirement.

### 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/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection plan was to assess compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 19 Health welfare and development of child.

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid

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 person in charge, 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 files of all 4 staff were reviewed as part of the inspection process and for the purpose of assessing compliance with this regulation.

These 4 files were reviewed on the day of the inspection as evidenced below;

- (a) Seven validated references were available from past employers.
- (b) One validated reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting was available for all adults.
- (d) Police vetting was available for all adults who had lived outside the state for longer than six consecutive months.

(4) There was evidence that all adults working directly with the children had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications or a qualification deemed to be 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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with preschool children attending the service.

There were four adults working directly with twenty children.

(2) At all times the minimum required ratio of adults to children was maintained.

## 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

1(b)

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed on the day of inspection as evidenced below:

The service had a healthy eating policy. Children sat together and enjoyed a nice, relaxed environment while eating their lunch which was sent in from home. Drinks were available to the children at all times. Staff encouraged and supervised the children during mealtimes. Children were supported to use the toilet and wash their hands with an appropriate balance of independence and supervision by staff. This was also observed when they were putting on their own coats. On the day of inspection, the children excitedly discussed the upcoming celebrations for St Patricks day. Staff demonstrated warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children. Soft furnishings were provided to facilitate children to rest during the day when required. All children spent time outdoors and wore coats appropriate to the weather. The children in the preschool had a separate outdoor area with an artificial grass covering which was easily accessible from the preschool room.

### 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:

External gates and doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. Heavy equipment was secured to prevent tipping and injury. Emergency exits were kept clear at all times during the inspection.

##### Infection Control:

The premises were observed to be maintained in a clean condition. Completed cleaning schedules were in place demonstrating the daily and weekly procedures taken by the service. Steps were taken to prevent the spread of infection through the use of good hygiene practices such as the supervision of children's hand washing and respiratory hygiene. The sanitary facility was equipped with warm water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels.

### 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) A person trained as a First Aid Responder (FAR) was immediately available to the children at all times.

(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was provided. It was positioned in an easily accessible and conspicuous position, just outside the preschool.

(b) The first aid box is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.