

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY364
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Name of Service:	Park Montessori
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Address of Service:	41 Farney Park, Sandymount, Dublin 4, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D04 VX40
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Name of Registered Provider:	Joanne O'Reilly
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	03/10/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate. 180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	N. McEndoo
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

Park Montessori is registered to provide sessional care for children from 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 09:00 to 12:30, Monday to Friday. The service operates from a purpose-built open plan room attached to the registered provider's domestic dwelling in a residential area of Dublin south. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs three staff including the registered provider. The registered provider and one adult was working directly with the children on the day of inspection. A third adult is available for relief work when required.

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 announced/unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. 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.

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*
- (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.*

(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)
The registered provider ensured that.
- (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
 - (c) There was 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.
- (2)
On the day of inspection, two adults were present, the registered provider and one adult who was employed to work directly with the children.
- The following vetting information was available for three adults:
- (a) Two written references from past employers for one of the adults.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting from the police authorities in other states was available for one adult who had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or more.
- (4)
Three of the adult files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2) Of the three files reviewed, a complete employment history was not available for one adult's file.
- (a)(b) While four written references were provided for two adults, there was no documented evidence that these references had been validated.

(d) Police vetting from the relevant authorities in another state was not available for one adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

2(a)(b)

The employment history is now on file. Before an employee starts all required documents will be printed off and on the file.

The written references were vetted before both staff members were employed. All employees references will be verified and dated at time etc recorded.

(d) No preventive response submitted.

Supporting documentation submitted

2(a)(b)

Copy of one validated previous employer reference submitted.

Copy of complete employment history received.

2(d)

Copy of Police vetting received.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted for 2(a)(b) have been reviewed. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 2(a)(b) have been adequately addressed.

As no written response was submitted for 9(2)(d), this regulation will be reviewed on next inspection.

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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and
(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

(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)
On the day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.
- (3)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times throughout the inspection.
- (8)
The registered provider ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises when children were present in the service as evidenced by the staffing roster.

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 entrance was found to be secured on arrival preventing unauthorised access.
- Materials were observed to be in a good state of repair.

- Warm running water was available for use by the children at a temperature below 43°C in the main care room.
- The rear outdoor area was secured with tall concrete block wall to prevent unauthorised exit of a preschool child.

Infection Control:

- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Tables and highchairs were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes in both care rooms.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available within the service for safe disposal of waste.
- There was adequate handwashing facilities provided throughout the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels. Children were observed to wash their hands with support, before snacks, meals and after toileting.
- Sanitary facilities were observed to be kept maintained and clean.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. While the main entrance was found to be secured, the door key was left inserted at child height, presenting a risk of unauthorised exit by a child from the premises.
2. An internal door between the service premises and private accommodation was observed to be unlocked, posing a risk of unauthorised entry or exit by a child.
3. Cleaning products and equipment were observed stored within an unlocked staff WC, posing a potential risk to children due to unrestricted access to hazardous substances.
4. Warm running water was available for handwashing at a temperature of 44°C, which exceeds recommended safe limits and may pose a scalding risk to children.

Infection Control:

5. Spare clothing belonging to the children, materials and equipment were observed to be stored in plastic boxes within both the staff and children's sanitary facilities. Sanitary facilities are considered high-risk zones for cross-contamination due to aerosolization during toilet flushing. Sealed containers are susceptible to external contamination in such environments.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

1. The registered provider stated: We now have a sign on the main entrance door to remind staff to hang up the key. To prevent recurrence all staff members will be informed of the importance of hanging up the key.
2. Internal door to be kept locked at all times.
3. All cleaning products now being kept on a high shelf in the school and staff toilet locked. All staff informed that cleaning products are kept on a high shelf in the school.
4. No Response submitted.

Infection Control:

5. Spare clothes have been removed from the bathroom and are now stored in sandwich bags in the entrance hall cupboard. Inform staff on new location for spare clothes.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photograph of sign reminding to place key on hook submitted.
2. None submitted.
3. None submitted.
4. None submitted.

Infection Control:

5. Photograph of cleared children's sanitary facility submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted for points 1 and 5 have been reviewed. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 points 1, 2, 3 and 5 have been adequately addressed.

Point 4 remain outstanding and will be reviewed on next inspection.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-
(a) no person other than-

- (i) pre-school child attending the service,*
 - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*
 - (iii) an employee, or*
 - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*
- (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that.

- (1) A record was maintained of all children of their times of entry and departure in the service daily.
- (3) The registered provider has ensured that no unauthorised person is allowed access to the preschool children and that a record is kept of any authorised person entering the service.

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)
The registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid response (FAR) for children was, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2)
The registered provider ensured that a suitably equipped first aid box for children was readily available at all times on the premises. The first aid kit was stored in a clearly labelled press within the care room.

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.
- (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 procedure was in place to practice and record monthly fire drills. The last documented fire drill was dated the 16th September 2025.
- (2)
- Records in relation to paragraph (1) were available for inspection by an authorised person.
- (4)
- Notices of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the hallway of the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment in the service was on file. It is acknowledged that evidence of annual maintenance for the fire detection system was available and was last inspected on 22nd July 2025. However, records indicated that the annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment had been due in May 2025. Evidence of this maintenance was not available on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A service of the firefighting equipment was arranged for Thursday 20/11/25. The registered provider stated that they will keep up to date on fire extinguisher maintenance in line with the fire alarm check.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of receipt for firefighting equipment maintenance received.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been reviewed. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 26 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on next inspection.

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 adequate insurance was in place for the preschool service for 16 children up until 28 November 2025.