

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY381
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	D2 Montessori
-------------------------	---------------

Address of Service:	6 Camden Street Upper, Dublin 2, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	D02 KF53
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Joyce Grant
-------------------------------------	-------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	23/04/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	36	PM	36
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin K67 Y5C6
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Coyle & Y Kelly
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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.
---------------------------------	-----------------

Description of service

D2 Montessori is a privately-owned childcare service located in Dublin city centre accommodating pre-school children aged 1-6 years on a full day care basis. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 52 pre-school children from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday with 4 care rooms in operation namely the Wobbler, Toddler, Pre-Montessori and Montessori rooms. An enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the property.

Staffing

The registered provider employs a service manager to oversee the operational management of the service. On the day of inspection, the manager was present with 9 staff members in addition to a staff member from one of the company's other services who was present for a period of time in a relief capacity. One staff member was employed in the service to reduce the adult to child ratio and if necessary to work with a child with additional needs, in posts which are funded by the minister as part of the Access and Inclusion Model scheme. The registered provider was not present in the service on the day of inspection and does not work directly with the children attending the service.

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 focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,10,11,16,19,23 and 31; These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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.

Additional Information

The inspection was carried out following receipt of information to Tusla Early Years Inspectorate.

The service was referred to the Fire Officer on the 08/05/2025 in relation to fire safety concerns observed on inspection.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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

(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

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The service manager was the designated person in charge when the inspectors arrived unannounced on the day of inspection and remained present on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

The files for the registered provider, company director, service manager, staff member from the company's other service and 10 staff members were reviewed.

(2)(a) Eighteen written and appropriately validated references were available from a past employer.

(b) Ten written and appropriately validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider, company director, service manager, staff member from the company's other service and 10 staff members. The Garda vetting records reviewed demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available for 9 staff members who had resided outside of the Irish jurisdiction for more than 6 consecutive months as adults.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the service manager and 11 core staff members who worked directly with the pre-school children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

(7)(a) The registered provider ensured that employees were supervised and provided with appropriate induction. In discussion with recently appointed staff members the staff members were able to describe the induction process and the system in place regarding the review of the service's policies and procedures.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The following policies relevant to this inspection were requested and reviewed.

- Behaviour management policy
- Accident and incident policy
- Staff supervision policy

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) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and remained so throughout the inspection.

The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:

- In the Wobbler room, there were 6 children aged 1 year 2 months to 1 year 10 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Toddler room there were 7 children aged 2 years to 2 years 11 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Preschool room there were 12 children aged 2 years 6 months to 3 years 11 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Montessori room there were 11 children aged 3 years 11 months to 5 years 2 months being cared for by 2 staff members.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times as evidenced in the staff rosters and staff attendance records maintained in the service

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(h) Details of children's attendance including arrival and departure times were recorded in attendance registers in each care room.

(l) An up-to-date weekly staff roster was available, and staff sign in records were maintained on a daily basis.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(g) The following policy was incomplete and were not in keeping with the requirements of Regulation 10:

The **Staff supervision policy** did not include

- The records that will be kept for supervision, where the records will be stored and how long they will be kept. The Person in charge stated that staff supervision is conducted on a six-monthly basis in the service however no supervision records are maintained in the service.

The **Accident and incident policy** did not include

- That an accident or incident form would be completed following an accident or incident occurring in the service.
- How parents will be communicated with following an accident or incident.

(k) Documentary evidence was not available in the service to confirm that an incident report had been completed and shared with parents following a recent incident that occurred in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(1) (g) The Supervision policy and Accident and Incident policy has been updated and given to all staff members to ensure they are up to date with the new policy.

(k) The Accident and Incident policy has been updated with the following “In the event where a child has been harmed as a result of staff misconduct, parents will be notified once details of incident/accident has been collected. Parents will be contacted via telephone and informed of the incident, they will also be invited to the serviced to discuss the matter further. Parents will receive and sign an accident and incident report form upon arrival”.

Preventive Action

(1) (g) Management will review at least one policy every month this has been added to the monthly paperwork checklist.

(1) (k) Management will ensure an accident and incident form will be filled out immediately after the accident/incident and ensure that all staff and management have signed and dated the form before parents receive, sign and date the form. All staff have read their updated accident and incident policy.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of supervision policy and Accident and incident policy

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service has been reviewed and accepted.

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

(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.

(3) *A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) &(b)The following examples demonstrate how each child’s learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service:

Basic needs:

- The staff members in the care rooms were observed to care for the children in a kind manner, giving the children as much individual time and attention as they required.
- The service provides all meals and snacks to children attending the service on a full day care basis. Breakfast of cereal and milk is available for breakfast, dinner of sausage casserole with potato sourced from an outside catering company was served for dinner, a fruit snack was provided in the afternoon and rice cakes with cheese and raisins were served for tea. Children’s individual dietary requirements were observed to be catered for Throughout the care rooms staff members were observed sitting with the children warmly engaging them in conversation during mealtimes providing assistance or gently encouraging the children to eat as needed.
- Nappy changing occurred at scheduled times and more frequently as required throughout the day. Staff members engaged positively with the children during this time using it as an opportunity for one-to-one interactions with the children.
- The children in both the Wobbler room, Toddler room and Pre-school room were placed to sleep in cots, floor beds or stackable beds in the care room after they had their dinner. The staff members in the Wobbler room informed the inspector that if children required to sleep outside of this time it would be facilitated.
- The children’s transitions were observed to be well supported through the use of verbal prompts and timeline of activities displayed on the wall of the care rooms.
- Throughout the care rooms in the service appropriate language and practices were observed being used by staff when supporting children’s social behaviours or supporting resolution of minor conflicts.
- All the children present in the service enjoyed time in the outdoor area to the rear of the service on the day of inspection.

Supporting relationships around children:

- Throughout the service staff members were observed to be warm, caring and sensitive in their interactions with children, in turn the children appeared to be comfortable and familiar with their

caregivers and within their environment. The children sought staff out for comfort or support as they required it.

- The staff members in the care rooms were observed to work well together and supported each other in the care of the children and when planning for up-coming activities and preparing materials in readiness, this was observed in the Toddler room when the 2 staff members present set up a playdough activity. Staff members updated each other on the children's care throughout the day which ensured the children's care needs were met in a timely manner.
- The staff members in the wobbler room maintain a record regarding the children's eating, sleeping, toileting and activities throughout the day which they share with parents on a daily basis. Staff members throughout the service were observed interacting with parents at drop off and collection providing verbal updates on their children's daily progress. Staff members discussed that children will sometimes visit siblings during the day.

Physical and material environment:

- There was age-appropriate furniture in each of the care rooms such as correct sized tables and chairs. The play materials were stored or displayed on low level shelving units which facilitated choice and supported the children's independence.
- The care rooms were resourced with the following interest areas provided in each of the care rooms, well-resourced home areas with a range of accessorial play materials including cooking utensils, crockery, dolls, doll care items, a wooden dolls house was provided in the preschool room and dress up materials throughout the care rooms supported the children's imaginary play experiences. Construction areas including large wooden blocks and plastic blocks were provided along with arts and crafts materials and a wide range of tabletop resources.
- A selection of books was provided in the care rooms which supported the children's language development this was enhanced further through conversation, storytelling and singing.
- Throughout the care rooms the children's sense of identity and belonging was reflected with the children's artwork on display in addition to the children's family photographs.
- A fully enclosed outdoor area surfaced with rubber tiles was located to the rear of the service. A dome climbing frame, mud kitchen with accessorial equipment and a selection of push along toys were provided for the children to use.

(3) No practices that were disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally, physically harmful or neglectful were observed during the inspection. Staff members were observed engaging with the children using a partnership approach and showed positive regard for the children at all times throughout the inspection.

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 doors leading into the premises were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. The entrance door was closed on the inspectors arrival to the service and was opened by staff via an intercom and door release system.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children during the inspection.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Suitable disposable gloves and aprons were available and observed being used and disposed of by staff members after each individual nappy change.
- Tissues were available for wiping noses and appropriate hand hygiene practices were observed being undertaken when staff members assisted children to clean their noses.
- Soothers were stored in personalised containers when not in use.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored out of the reach of children. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- Ten-minute sleep checks including the children's colour, position and breathing were conducted on all sleeping children in the service.
- Adequate space of at least 50cm was left between the cot and floor beds set up in the Wobbler Room and the stackable set up in the Toddler Room, when children were sleeping.
- Documented sleep risk assessments were completed and available for 5 children aged less than 2 years who slept on floor beds on the day of inspection.

Fire Safety:

- The records reviewed on inspection demonstrated that fire drills were practiced on a regular basis to familiarise both adults and children of the correct procedures to follow in the event of a fire.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

- The water at the sinks on the ground floor of the service including the nappy changing area, sink used by the children attending the Montessori room and the sink to support the staff toilet was cold. Cold water does not support effective hand hygiene.
- On the afternoon of inspection, the children attending the Montessori room were not supervised in using the bathroom and were observed not to wash their hands after using the toilet.
- Handtowels were not hygienically dispensed at the sink in the Montessori Room. This posed an infection control risk.

Fire Safety:

- A marked fire exit in the Montessori Room leading to the hallway of the service was blocked with a mat at the doorway. Furthermore, the area immediately outside this door was used for the storage of coats and bags which could impede the egress from the room in the event of an emergency. There were 2 official fire exits leading from the Montessori room and the staff stated that one of the fire exits were currently being used only. Fire exits must be clearly marked and unobstructed to provide safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.
- The children attending the Wobbler room are facilitated to sleep in their care room on the first floor of the service daily. On the day of inspection 7 children aged less than 2 years were placed to sleep in this care room after dinner. Children aged less than 2 years are not permitted to sleep on the first floor due to the risks associated with fire evacuation in the event of an emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

Infection Control:

- Daily checklist has been updated for the opening shift to ensure that all water heaters are turned on.
- A staff meeting has been held, and all staff were told that children need to be supervised at all times when using the toilet.
- A staff meeting has been held, and staff are to notify management or the floater if dispensers are empty.

Fire Safety:

4. The sign has been removed from the door as the door is not in use.
5. Rooms have been moved and the Wobblers and Toddlers are now located on the ground floor.

Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Management will sign off on daily checklists at the end of the week.
2. Advice was given from Tusla and Better start and a fulltime floater has been employed for the service to help support in these areas.
3. Dispensers to be checked has been added to the daily check list.

Fire Safety:

4. A referral had been made to the fire officer by the Early Years inspectorate, he visited the service on Friday the 23/05/2025. The fire officer was satisfied that all means of escape for the children and staff were compliant with fire regulations, however they are engaging with a fire consultant and will provide necessary information when required.
5. Fire Safety policy has been updated stating that all children under 2 will remain on the ground floor.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of Wobbler and Toddler room located on the ground floor.

Photograph of fire exit door.

Sign in confirmation of fire officers visit to service.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child has been reviewed and accepted.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 31 - Notification of incidents

A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:

(a) the death of a pre-school child while attending the service including the death of a child in hospital following his or her transfer to hospital from the service:

(b) the diagnosis of a pre-school child attending the service, an employee, unpaid worker, contractor or other person working in the service as suffering from an infectious disease within the meaning of the Infectious Disease Regulations 1981 (S.I No 390 of 1981)

(c) an incident that occurs in the service and that results in the service being closed for any length of time:

(d) a serious injury to a pre-school child while attending the service that requires immediate medical treatment by a registered medical practitioner whether in a hospital or otherwise;

(e) an incident in respect of which a preschool child attending the service goes missing while attending the service.

Compliance Information

(d) There was evidence that the service manager completed a notification of incident form within 3 days informing the Early Years Inspectorate of an incident that occurred in the service on the 14/04/2025. However, the incident is not included in the subsections listed within regulation 31.