

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY395
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Name of Service:	Blossom Montessori School
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Address of Service:	WSAF Moeran Hall, Sommerville Drive, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Muire Gibson
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	10/06/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	Sarah Quigley
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

Blossom Montessori School is a sessional early years service who provide care and education to preschool children aged 2 to 6 years on a school calendar basis, through a Montessori and play based curriculum. The service is located in a residential area of Walkinstown Dublin 12 and operates from two adjoining rooms on the first floor of the WSAF Moeran Hall Community centre which have been purposely adapted for use.

Staffing

The service currently employs 3 staff members including the registered provider who works directly in the service each day. All 3 staff members 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 area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/Information and records/ 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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 10th June 2024 in respect of Regulation 25 First Aid. There was no adult available to the children on the day of inspection with first aid responder (FAR) training or paediatric first aid training.

The registered provider responded to the immediate action notice on the 11th June 2024 which stated the registered providers intention to close the service from the end of June and therefore training a staff member was not feasible.

The draft inspection report was issued to the registered provider on the 21st June 2024 requesting corrective and preventive actions to respond to non-compliances identified on inspection. An email was received from the registered provider on the 10th July 2024 stating a response would not be provided as they intended to close the service. A cessation form has not been received.

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

(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

(2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of all 3 adults employed to work in the service on the day of inspection. The following records were available for the 3 adults:

(a) (b)

The registered provider demonstrated that they had verified the references obtained from two sources for 2 of the adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from The National Vetting Bureau for the 3 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable, international police vetting was not required.

(3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified under Regulation 9(2) had been carried out prior to 2 of the adults commencing employment in the service.

(4) There was evidence that the 3 adults 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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a) (b)
- Two references on file for one adult had not been verified by the registered provider.
- (3) Two references on file for one adult had not been verified prior to the adult commencing employment in the service as detailed above.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

No response was submitted by the registered provider.

Supporting documentation submitted

No response was submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

Corrective and preventive actions were not submitted by the registered provider in response to the draft inspection report.

Correspondence received from the registered provider on the 10th July 2024 stated they would not be responding as they intended to close the service.

This service is no longer operating as Blossom Montessori School

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were 12 children present in the service being supervised by 3 adults during the inspection.

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) A record was available in the care room detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection. A review of documentation evidenced that attendance records had been maintained daily in the service.
 - (i) An accurate staffing roster was available in the service detailing hours of work for each staff member on the day of inspection. A review of documentation evidenced that staff members attendance had been recorded daily in the service.
 - (k) There were no written records of medication in the service available as no medication had been administered to a child in attendance. The registered provider demonstrated that the necessary documentation was available to record the administration of medications if required.

Non-Compliance Information

- (j) Written records of accidents and incidents which occurred in the service that were available on the day of inspection were insufficient. A number of the forms reviewed did not contain evidence that the information had been shared with parents as no parental signature was available. This may effect the continuity of care to a child following an accident.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

No response was submitted by the registered provider.

Supporting documentation submitted

No response was submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

Corrective and preventive actions were not submitted by the registered provider in response to the draft inspection report.

Correspondence received from the registered provider on the 10th July 2024 stated they would not be responding as they intended to close the service.

This service is no longer operating as Blossom Montessori School

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

Suitable and appropriate care practices were observed throughout the inspection, as evidenced by the following;

The adults interacted with the children in a caring and kind manner and children were observed to be visibly calm, content and engaged in their activities throughout the inspection. Children moved freely around the care room choosing activities to complete alone, in groups, and with staff members as desired. Staff supported and encouraged children in their chosen activities and used prompts to extend play and learning. Adults were observed using soft tones and respectful language during all interactions which reflected in the calm atmosphere of the service. The adults were observed to be responsive to each child's individual needs during the inspection. Children who became upset were comforted promptly by staff who also intervened quickly to resolve minor conflicts between peers.

Lunches were provided by the parents/guardians of the children in attendance and staff reported a healthy eating policy is shared at the beginning of the year. Staff sat engaged with the children during lunch which created a sociable atmosphere. Children all accessed the toilets independently throughout the inspection. Staff encouraged

handwashing at regular intervals and prompted children to be independent in cleaning their noses. Independence was also encouraged throughout the morning at clean up times and preparation for lunch.

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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with the registered provider, and inspection of the premises that the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The entrance door into the building was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons gaining access or children exiting unsupervised. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the indoor play environment was safe and free from hazards. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal-operated, lidded bins throughout the service. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and before lunch. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff members outlined appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. The registered provider detailed the procedures for administering medication if required during discussions with the inspector and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. One staff member working in the service did not have a Garda Vetting disclosure which was dated within the last 3 years.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

No response was submitted by the registered provider.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

No response was submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

Corrective and preventive actions were not submitted by the registered provider in response to the draft inspection report.

Correspondence received from the registered provider on the 10th July 2024 stated they would not be responding as they intended to close the service.

This service is no longer operating as Blossom Montessori School

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

(2)

(a) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available in the service at all times on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

There was no adult trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training or paediatric first aid available to the children on the day of inspection.

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider following the inspection on the 10th June 2024 in relation to Regulation 25(1).

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated they intend to close the service from the end of June and therefore training a staff member was not feasible.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation was submitted.

Summary Comment

Corrective and preventive actions were not submitted by the registered provider in response to the draft inspection report.

Correspondence received from the registered provider on the 10th July 2024 stated they would not be responding as they intended to close the service.

This service is no longer operating as Blossom Montessori School

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.
- (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 written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service.
 - (b) There was record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had taken place as required.
- (4)
- The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Documentation reviewed evidenced that the preschool service was adequately insured for the type of service provided and the number of children in attendance.