

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL030
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Name of Service:	Bo Peep's Montessori
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Address of Service:	Church Hall, Aspen Road, Church of the Visitation, Kinsealy, Dublin, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K67 RK20
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Name of Registered Provider:	Roseanna Keegan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	10/10/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin K67 Y5C6
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Inspection undertaken by:	AM Coyle & L Jameson
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

Bo Peeps Montessori is a sessional Early Years service and is one of two privately owned early years services operated by the registered provider. The service offers sessional preschool care and education to children aged from 2 years 8 months to 5 years through an emerging play-based curriculum participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and operates from 09:15 am to 12:15 pm Monday to Friday. Bo Peeps Montessori is located in a prefabricated unit which is situated on church grounds adjacent to a primary school in Kinsealy, North Dublin. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of the service. Parking is provided to the front of the service for parental drop off and collection.

Staffing

The registered provider works directly with the children attending the service. A further 3 staff members are employed in the service one of whom works directly with the school aged children only. One staff member is employed in the service to reduce the adult to child ratio and if necessary to work with a child with additional needs, a post which is funded by the Minister as part of the Access and Inclusion Model scheme.

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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 28; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8. 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.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider failed to notify the Early Years Inspectorate of a change in circumstances in relation to the following as per the schedule 4 Form for Notification of Change in Circumstances:

The operating hours of the service are at variance with the hours the service is registered to operate. The service is registered to operate from 09:00am to 12:00pm but is currently operating from 09:15am to 12: 15pm.

Two children were in attendance in the service outside of the services current operating hours. The children had been signed in and present from 08:40 am and 08:42am respectively.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

CIC has been submitted, returned and completed. Hours now reflect inspectors' hours.

Preventive Action

Manager will ensure The Hive & The Portal coincide with each other. The Hive had the operating hours manager was going by and to be very honest she never thought to check The Portal.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of email received confirming CIC had been approved.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances has been reviewed and accepted.

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.

Compliance Information

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

(b) The named person to deputies for the designated person in charge was present and in charge of the service when the inspector arrived unannounced at 09:15am on the morning of the inspection and the registered provider arrived in the service shortly afterwards.

The files for all 4 staff members including the registered provider and 3 staff members were reviewed.

(2)(a) &(b) Two written, validated references were available for the registered provider and 3 staff members whose files were reviewed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the 4 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 1 staff member who had resided outside of the Irish jurisdiction for more than 6 consecutive months as adults.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that 3 staff members whose files were reviewed and who work directly with the children in the service including the registered provider held an appropriate childcare qualification at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the minister to be equivalent. The remaining staff member did not hold a recognised childcare qualification; however, the person in charge confirmed that this staff member works directly with school age children only.

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) There was an adequate number of staff working with the children on the day of the inspection.

(3) The adult to child ratio was correct when the inspector arrived for an unannounced inspection and was appropriately maintained in the service throughout the inspection.

There were 3 adults caring for 19 children aged 2 years 10 months to 4 years 8 months. A staff member was employed to reduce the adult to child ratio to support children with additional needs, when necessary, as part of the Access and Inclusion Model scheme.

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

(1)(a) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic needs:

- There was a friendly and welcoming atmosphere in the service. The staff members spoke positively to and about the children during the inspection and were responsive to the children's individual needs, likes and preferences.
- The children brought their own snacks with them from home which they were given plenty of time to enjoy. The staff members chatted to the children while they ate thus creating a relaxed and social atmosphere.
- The children's personal care needs were attended to during the inspection. All of the children in attendance were toilet trained and used the toilet independently with discreet supervision provided as required. The children were provided with aprons to participate in a painting activity.
- Childre's choice was observed being supported when children chose to change or opt out of activities. For example, 2 children chose not to participate in a painting activity and were facilitated to engage in tabletop activities.
- The staff members approached children's behaviour in a calm and supportive manner, redirecting the children before conflict escalated showing respect for children throughout the inspection.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The staff members were observed engaging positively with the children during the inspection, frequently initiating conversations using warm tones of voice. They demonstrated their knowledge of the children's needs and preferences when speaking about the children.

- The children were observed to be comfortable and familiar with the staff members and within their environment. They looked to the staff members for support as needed and moved freely and confidently around their play spaces.
- The services use a software application to record children’s observations and progress which parents and guardians can access throughout the day. Additionally, feedback is provided to parents at drop-off and collection.

Physical and material environment:

- The care room was bright and welcoming with appropriate furniture provided to facilitate child led play. Toys and materials were stored on low shelving which promoted independence and facilitated choice for the children.
- The service was well resourced with a home area which included a play kitchen with some kitchen items along with a large dolls house, pram and dolls. Additionally, transport toys including train tracks and cars, jigsaws, small world materials, tabletop resources, art materials and a range of Montessori materials were provided for the children to use.
- A selection of books located alongside the rest area in the service were available for the children to use.
- An outdoor area located to the rear of the service was available to the children. The area immediately adjacent to the service was covered with a rigid plastic roof which enabled the children to spend time outside regardless of the weather, this area contained a mud kitchen, dolls house along with push along and ride on toys for the children to use. Two climbing frames with swings and a slide were available in the extensive grass area and the area also provided the children with the opportunity for running and free movement. All the children present on inspection enjoyed time in the outdoor area on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

1. There was no sensorial play experiences for example sand or water play provided for the children in either the indoor play environment or the outdoor area of the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

1. Lentils/Rice sensory table now offered as a substitution for sand/water. Sand/water table was removed as it was causing great upset for the child receiving AIM, manager thought by removing it for a few weeks and slowly reintroducing it might work better.

Preventive Action

1. Have options in place before removing fundamentals.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of sensory play materials submitted.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child has been reviewed and accepted.

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:

- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

- The hand washing policy were implemented in practice with appropriate hand washing observed for the children. Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were available in the sanitary facilities adjacent to the care room.
- The service was clean with cleaning schedules available.
- The children's snacks provided from home were refrigerated on arrival for the children. This reduced the risk of bacteria multiplying to levels which could result in food contamination.

Administration of Medication:

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

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The entrance doorway into the premises were found to be unsecured at 9.15am. This posed a risk that a child to leave the service unsupervised or an unauthorised person could gain access to the service.
2. The cupboards beneath the sink which contained wall paint, room spray and cleaning spray were not securely locked to prevent the children from accessing them.
3. A blind cord on one of the windows in the care room was not secured to the wall.

Administration of Medication:

4. There was no care plan available for a child in the service for whom a parent had provided an inhaler to be administered.

Fire Safety:

5. The fire drills were not conducted on a monthly basis in the service. The last fire drill conducted in the service occurred on the 04/06/2024.
6. The emergency fire door leading from the care room to the front of the building was obstructed by a desk and shelving which may prevent a prompt evacuation in the event of an emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

General Safety:

1. The door was not locked at the time of inspection as the children were just arriving (this is where the times caused an issue, the inspectors thought the children were in from 9 but in fact it was 9:15 and that was the time inspectors arrived). A drop latch has now been fitted for when door is closed over.
2. Door locks have been fitted.
3. The blind cord has been removed. The other six cords were already removed prior to this inspection, this one was left on as to the position of it but is now also gone.

Administration of Medication:

4. Care plan and documents now on the premises. The inhaler was a once and had only just been prescribed that week. Parent was understanding and agreed to have a Care Plan done anyway.

Fire Safety:

5. Fire drills are now up to date. It wasn't done in September as children were settling in however they carried two out in October.
6. Desk is moved further up the wall to make more room at the emergency exit.

Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Staff will ensure latch flap is on at all times.
2. Ensure all chemical based items are stored safely.
3. Ensure to remove all safety hazards.

Administration of Medication:

4. Care plan put in place regardless of time child has it for.

Fire Safety:

5. Ensure Fire Drills are done monthly.
6. Keep doorway clear.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was provided.

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 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

(1) The service maintained accurate details of all children in attendance during the inspection. The children were entered as present on a software App on electronic tablet devices in the care room, noting each child's arrival and departure times.

(3)(a) & (b) A system was in place to ensure that no person other than the children and their parents or guardians, employees, approved students or authorised visitors could enter the service. Visitor's attendance at the service was recorded in a visitors' book.

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 in first aid including first aid responder (FAR) training was immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service as evidenced in the staff roster and the in-date FAR certification provided for inspection.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and safely stored in readily accessible positions on the premises, out of the reach of children.

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 firefighting 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 record was maintained of fire drills which had been completed in the service. The most recent fire drill recorded as having taken place on 04/06/2024.

(b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The fire extinguishers were certified as having been serviced in 26/09/2024 and the smoke alarms were serviced on the 14/08/24.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An insurance certificate confirming insurance for 24 children attending the service at any one time on a sessional basis up until 27/03/2025 was available.