

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015FL206

Name of Service Maria's Montessori & Pre school

Address of Service: Clann Mhuire G.F.C., Naul, Co. Dublin, K32HK76

Email Address: minniewhytenaul@yahoo.com

Name of Registered Provider: Maria Whyte

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Adding an additional service type from sessional to part time.
Change in the hours of operation from 09:00am to 12:30pm to 09:00am to 12:30pm and from 13:30pm to 18.00pm

Proposed Number of Children: 43

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Adding an additional service type from sessional to part time.
Change in the hours of operation from 09:00am to 12:30pm to 09:00am to 12:30pm and from 13:30pm to 18:00pm

Registered change: Change in service type from Sessional to Part Time / Sessional Service
Change in hours of operation from 09:00am to 12:30pm to 9:00am to 12:30pm and 13:30pm to 18:00pm
Change in number of staff from 5 to 8

Date of Inspection:	2	4	0	7	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: AM Coyle & Y Kelly

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 180-189 Lakeshore Drive,
Airside Business Park, Swords,
Co Dublin K67 Y5C6

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time & Sessional Service
Date of Registration	15th September 2025

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	Maria's Montessori and Preschool is a sessional early years' service which was established in this location in 2009 and is registered to accommodate 43 children attending on a sessional basis. The service is currently operating as a sessional early years' service and is proposing to operate as a part time service.
Premises	Maria's Montessori and Preschool is located in a GAA clubhouse on the outskirts of Naul village in north Co Dublin with 2 care rooms in operation. The Pre-Montessori room is located in the clubhouse building and the Montessori room is located in a separate adjacent building. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of the Montessori room. There is ample parking available for drop off and collection.
Staffing	The registered provider works directly with the children on a daily basis in addition to 8 staff members all of whom work directly with the children.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.

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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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

The registered provider is the designated person in charge on a daily basis and a named person is available to deputise as required.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6 and would ensure that an adequate number of adults would at all times work directly with the children in the service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The 2 care rooms were resourced with a broad range of play materials and equipment to facilitate children to initiate and sustain meaningful play activities. Interest areas were clearly defined and included well-resourced home corners, shop areas, libraries, construction areas, montessori materials, a broad range of tabletop materials and arts and crafts areas. The play materials were stored at an accessible level to the pre-school children. A secure outdoor area is located directly behind the Montessori room.

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(b) Rest areas were available in the care rooms with mats, cushions provided to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the day if required. Sleep mats are available should a child need to sleep.

(3)(a) The service has an outdoor play space to the rear of the Montessori room which was fully enclosed by fencing. The outdoor play area was observed to be suitable and secure, and no safety hazards were noted on the day of inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.
The children attending the sessional service in the morning bring their own snack with them from home. A fridge is provided in both care rooms for the storage of perishable goods.
It is proposed that the children attending the part time service will bring a snack with them from home and a hot meal sourced from an outside catering company will be provided.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.
There are no hazards observed by the inspectors that would impact the health, safety or welfare of the children attending the service. Appropriate measures have been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children.

- The external doors and windows were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- All furniture and equipment were clean and in good condition and suitable for use by the proposed age groups.
- The heating system for the service was thermostatically controlled to prevent radiators from exceeding the maximum surface temperature of 50°C.
- Thermostatically controlled running water was available at the wash hand basins in the service.
- The fire exits are clearly marked in the service.
- The outdoor areas are secure thus preventing a pre-school child from exiting the area and preventing unauthorised access to the service.

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- Cleaning agents were inaccessible to children, stored in locked cupboards in the care rooms.

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—
- is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
 - is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There are 6 staff members in the service who hold in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training.

(2)(a)(b) First aid boxes were suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions in the care rooms, available at all times for the children if necessary.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A template is available which would be used to record fire drills that would take place monthly at the service. The last fire drill took place in June 2025.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The firefighting equipment is certified as having been serviced on 10/07/2024 and the smoke alarm was serviced on the 24/05/2025. The registered provider stated that the fire extinguishers were booked to be serviced on the week beginning 28/07/2025.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the care rooms in the service.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

A current insurance certificate is in place for up to 43 children to attend the service on a sessional basis, valid until 27/03/2025.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the registration team prior to this inspection. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered provider compliance with regulation 28.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(a) On visual inspection the premises appears to be structurally sound.

(b) The premises were safe and secure. The entrance doors to the service and the internal door were secured adequately to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.

(c) Both care rooms in the service have windows which provide the rooms with natural light. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Appropriate shatter proof coverings were provided on the ceiling lighting. The temperature of the care rooms was between 18°C to 20.0°C on the day of inspection.

(d) The premises is in a clean condition and in a good state of repair.

(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation including nappy changing facilities were available in the service. Two toilets and 2 wash hand basins were located off the Pre montessori room, 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins were located

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off the Montessori room. Nappy changing facilities are available. A separate staff toilet is provided.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (4) *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 clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*

Requirement met:

(1) The requirement has been met. There is adequate clear floor space available for the children.

(2) The clear floor space of the Pre montessori room was 38m² which provides sufficient space for the proposed 21 children between the age of 2-6 years to be cared for in this room on a sessional care basis or 16 children aged 2- 6 years attending on a part time basis.

The clear floor space of the Montessori room measured was 52.88m² which provides sufficient space for the proposed 22 children between the age of 2-6 years to be cared for in this room on a sessional care basis and 22 children aged 2-6 years attending on a part time basis.