

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015FL337
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tyrrelstown Montessori & Afterschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Unit 2 Block D, Tyrrelstown Shopping Centre, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D15 X048
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Christine Fitzsimons
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional.
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	28/11/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	39	PM	25
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á Dunne
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable.
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### Description of service

Tyrrelstown Montessori and Afterschool is a private childcare service located in North Dublin. The service provides a full day care, part time and a sessional service to pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years old. The service operates Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 6.00pm. The service is located in a ground floor shop unit located in Dublin 15. There are two large care rooms, sanitary facilities, a kitchen /staff room and a staff sanitary facility within the unit. The service has access to an outdoor area to the rear of the premises through a rear fire exit door. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. A school aged service is also provided in the afternoons.

### Staffing

On the day of inspection, the registered provider, who works in the service in a supportive role, was present with eight staff members.

### 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 as follows:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4)

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2)(3)

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid (1) (2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1)(a)(b) (4)

Regulation 28 Insurance

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. The scope of the inspection was the two care rooms of the service – referred to as M1 room and M2 room.

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

*(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

(2) On discussion with the registered provider, there are nine adults employed in the service to include the registered provider and eight staff.

The files of nine adults were reviewed as part of the inspection.

(a) Two written and validated references were available in relation to five adults and one written and validated reference was available in relation to one adult, from a past employer.

(b) Two written and validated references were available in relation to three adults and one written and validated reference was available in relation to one adult, from reputable sources.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for nine adults. The service has also adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for four adults who had lived outside the State for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the nine adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

### 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.

(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) The registered provider ensured that there was at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service. On the day of inspection, in the morning, nine adults worked with 39 children aged between 2 years 10 months and 5 years from 8.00am to 12pm and in the afternoon, four adults worked with 14 children aged between 2 years 10 months and 5 years, between 12pm and 1.30pm and 4 four adults worked with 11 children aged between 3 and 5 years, between 12pm and 3pm.

(2) (3). The adult to child ratios were maintained as demonstrated in the following table;

Room	No. of Children aged 2years 10 months to 5 years Morning Session (9am to 12pm)	No of Adults present	No. of Children aged 2years 10 months to 5 years Part time hours (12pm to 1.30pm)	No of Adults present	No. of Children aged 2years 10 months to 5 years Morning Session (12pm to 3pm)	No of Adults present
Room M1	20	4	14	4	-	-
Room M2	19	4	-	-	11	4
Total	39	8	14	4	11	4

The registered provider was available in a support role for breaks.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

- The two rooms were bright and laid out in an inviting manner to enable children to independently explore their environment.
- A range of play materials and equipment were organised and well-resourced. There were play based equipment and materials present and available to the children on low shelving, in labelled boxes and in clear identifiable areas of interests.
- All the materials and equipment in both care rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending each room nurturing children’s independence, ability to make decisions, and develop their play opportunities. For example:
  - Home corner areas (play kitchens with supporting equipment, dolls and doll accessories, shops and cash registers, hairdressers table with supporting equipment),
  - Construction areas (wooden building blocks, small and large plastic bricks, stickle bricks, clicks, magnetics, trains and train tracks, work bench with tools),
  - Tabletop activities (threading, pegs and peg boards, wooden puzzles and jigsaws, colouring and arts and crafts),
  - Small world play (dinosaurs, farm animals, farm building, garage, trucks, cars and road map rug, fire station, doctors set, small dolls, dolls house with supporting equipment, small playhouse, castle),
  - Sensory area (table with lentils and supporting equipment.)
  - Arts areas (easel, crayons, paints, paint brushes, pencils, stencils, glue, gluing items)
  - Dress up area with dress up clothes.
  - Rest areas were available in the care rooms to enable children to rest and take a break from activities, they consisted of cushions, soft matting and books.
  - M2 room had a wooden indoor climbing frame with stairs and a slide, for gross motor activity.
- The furniture provided in each of the two care rooms was low level and suitable to the needs and age of the children. There were a sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played, completed table tops activities and when children chose to eat their snack.

- The use of family pictures of the children and their extended family and birthday dates for each child with a photo of the child displayed on the walls of both classrooms, reinforced each child's identity and belonging within the service. This can provide familiarity and comfort to children.
- Artwork was present on the walls of both care rooms, for example for the theme of Winter / Snow, art creations of snowmen, woolly hats, winter mittens, dressed people with hats, scarves, jumpers and boots were displayed.
- The children engaged in outdoor play while under the supervision of adults. The surface was a soft artificial surface with play equipment of a playhouse with a climbing wall and slide, a wooden playhouse, a slide, a see saw, a ride in car, trikes, scooters, a basketball net and a sand pit with supporting equipment.

### 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 external door of the service was secure with a buzzer system monitored by the staff to prevent a child from exiting the service unsupervised and to prevent an unauthorised person from entering the building. The outdoor play area was secure, while children played outside.
- Attendance records were present, completed and accurate.
- The temperature of the M1 room was recorded as 18.6°C at 10.40am and of the M2 room was recorded as 21.9°C at 11.50am, within the recommended ambient temperature of 18 - 22 °C.
- The kitchen of the service was not accessible to the children.
- Cleaning agents stored safely and out of reach from children.
- The play equipment and materials observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

##### Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap and dispensed handtowels were available in the sanitary facilities.

- Children lunches which were brought from home were refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.
- Pedal operated bins were available for disposal of contaminated items.
- Mechanical ventilation was present and working in both sanitary facilities.
- The service was visually clean with cleaning records and risk assessments completed daily and available.

### 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 service provided evidence that two adults trained in First Aid Response were available to the children attending the service.
- (2) (a) (b) A first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in both care rooms of the service and was available to the adults responsible for the 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 written record was reviewed by the inspector for fire drills completed and the last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- (b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. The Firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms were last serviced on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024.
- (4) The fire drill procedures were displayed on the walls of the premises and observed by the Inspector.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Evidence of insurance cover was available to demonstrate there was cover for a maximum of 44 children with an expiry date of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025.