

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY079		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Doorus Community Montessori		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Doorus, Kinvara, Co. Galway		
<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 DFH7		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Siobhan Gohery		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	26/01/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM 9
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Kelly.		
<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
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

This full day care service is located in Doorus National School in a rural area of Kinvara, County Galway. The service operated from 8:00am to 6:00pm each day. The service consists of two playrooms and has a well-equipped outdoor play area located at the front of the premises where children have access to a range of different experiences. The service is also registered to operate a service for school aged children.

### Staffing

There were 3 adults working in the service working in the service which includes the registered provider.

### 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. 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.

### 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

*(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.*

*(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

(1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named persons who were able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider was on the premises and facilitated the inspection. It was confirmed that there were 3 members of staff employed in the service, which included the registered provider and childcare staff.

All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 5 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.

(b) There was 1 written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the 3 staff working in the service.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 1 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) There were 3 adults working directly with children who had obtained at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

(2) On the morning of inspection, there were 3 adults caring for the 14 pre-school children attending the session.

At 13.00pm on the day of inspection , there were 3 adults caring for the 9 pre-school children attending in afternoon.

(8)(a) The staff roster of the service indicated that there were two adults on the premises at all times during the operational hours of the service.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider developed, maintained and retained records about each child attending the service. A sample of the children's records were reviewed by the inspectors, of the 17 children attending the service, a total of 11 records were reviewed, the records contained the elements (a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i, ) as outlined above.
- (4) All records were retained for the required period of 2 years from the date on which the child ceases to attend the service.

### 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

##### Basic Needs.

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service. Snacks and children's drinks were available to the children when they required them. Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack without feeling rushed. The children attending the full day care service were observed to eat food that was sent in from home. The staff reheated the lunches for the children, 2 children on the day of inspection were observed to have healthy lunches which consisted of chicken ,pasta and vegetables. The children tidy away their lunch boxes and returned their bags to the hall way when they had finished their meals. The children were then free to go to the library area where they could relax and look at the range of story books that were available to them.
- Children were independent with their toileting needs and they have unrestricted access to the toilet that was located adjacent to the large playroom. Assistance was offered to the children when required.
- Children were observed washing their hands prior to lunch and after toileting.
- The children had access to relaxation area and soft seating in the playroom. Children attending on a full day care basis had access to stackable beds and bed linen should they required sleep and rest.
- The staff members were observed to deal with disagreement between the children in a sensitive and calm manner. This was observed during the session, when 2 children had an issue with sharing the black board space. One child became very upset and the staff spoke to the 2 children involved and the issue was quickly resolved. The staff got the 2 children to agree to each use half of the black board. The staff drew a chalk line down the middle and the 2 children played with the chalk board while standing next to each other without any further issues.
- The children were encouraged to be independent in caring for themselves. The children were encouraged to put on their jackets , the staff members offered assistance but let the children do as much as they could prior to intervening.

- The children playroom got to use the outdoor play area throughout the session. The children had suitable outdoor footwear and jackets to wear in inclement weather. This was observed on the day when children wore rainproof gear when they were playing in the outdoor area, here they observed digging and playing in the mud kitchen, riding the selection of ride on toys, climbing on the play equipment and balancing on the beams on the floor. The children appeared happy and content exploring the different areas of the space, this was evident from the laughter while playing and the upset when they were told it was time to tidy up as it was “going home time”.