

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015GY120

Name of Service: Kilnadeema Montessori & Afterschool

Address of Service: Kilnadeema National School, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

Email Address: monicagardiner@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms Monica Gardiner

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: New pre-fabrication unit

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Approve change

Registered change: Change of Service Location – from old prefab unit to new prefab unit

Date of Inspection:	3	0	0	4	2	0	2	4
----------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Inspection undertaken by: H. Heagney

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Clinical & Administration Building,
Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor),
Merlin Park, Galway.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	9 th May 2024

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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	The premises is in a new prefabrication unit on the grounds of the national school in the village of Kilnadeema, Co. Galway. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school sessional care programme is offered from 9.30hrs to 12.30hrs. The pre-school caters for a maximum of 22 children at any one time, for children aged between 2 and 6 years, from Monday to Friday. A Montessori play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on emerging interests is provided.
Premises	This pre-school service operates from a new purpose-built ground floor prefabrication unit. Quiet rest areas are available for children to rest and relax. There is a designated secure outdoor play area located at the rear of the premises. The children have access under supervision to the national school facilities, an impact absorbing pitch, green spaces, and playground areas. The children also have access under supervision to an adjacent sporting organisation community pitch.
Staffing	The registered provider is on the premises daily. There is a designated person in charge and a person able to deputize. There are three staff working directly with children who at least a major award Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.
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</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	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	This service was found to be operating the change without prior sanction from the Registration Office.
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge and deputy person in charge 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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement was met.

There will be a proposed designated person in charge and a proposed named person available to deputise in the service.

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.

(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.

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1) It is proposed that there will be an adequate number of staff working directly with the pre-school children.

It is proposed that there will be a maximum of 22 children at any one time.

It is proposed that there will be three staff, who hold at hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education working directly with the proposed children.

(8)(a) It is proposed that there will be two staff on the premises during the operation hours of 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:

(1)(a) The design, organisation, and resourcing of the indoor and outdoor environment would be able to support each child’s wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service.

The playroom was designed and arranged to:

- maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter,
- divided into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support proposed children’s play, development, and learning,
- give all proposed children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development.

The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was thereby readily accessible to the proposed pre-school children.

The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, they were designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.

There were opportunities for

- Imaginary play with dress up clothing, hairdressing, a doctor’s area, a farm area, a kitchen, construction materials, transport vehicles area, reading and painting areas.
- Creative play with art and craft materials, paper, paint, glue, glitter, pencils, crayons, stencils, and recycled materials.

- Language and literacy play with visual aids, books, audio books, bingo games and sandpaper letters and numbers.
- Gross motor play with footballs, throwing bean bags, parachute play, riding on scooters, tractors, and bicycles in the outdoor play areas. The staff advised children would have movement breaks and yoga at designated times while playing in the playroom.
- Sensory play with kinetic sand, water, rice, play dough, sensory toys, liquid motion toy timers, and puzzle cubes.
- Fine motor play with pegs, pins, stickers, pinches, scissors, magnets, threading, stacking, mix and match, insets, puzzles, jigsaws, and blocks.
- Risk taking opportunities allowing children the chance for climbing, ball games, balancing, ‘walking the line’ and during group game activities.

Displayed on the walls were posters, visual aids, and children’s art and craft work.

(1)(b) A rest quiet area was provided in the form of soft seating couches to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to.

(3)(a)

Outdoor area

The person in charge advised that the outdoor area was an extension of the indoor environment and linked with the learning that goes on inside.

The person in charge advised that the children would have the opportunity to be outside as often as possible, in all weather conditions.

The children attending would wear sunscreen and or suitable all-weather clothing.

The designated outdoor play area was to the rear of the pre-school. The area was securely fenced and covered with grass. Play equipment and materials provided in the outdoor area would support a range of physically energetic activities and play experiences. There were bicycles, scooters, tractors, a climbing frame, links, water play materials, and connectors.

The person in charge advised that during inclement weather, the children had access to a marked securely fenced impact absorbing pitch with six goal posts, two rebounders, and cones.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Additionally, the children would have access under supervision, to an adjacent sporting association community pitch.

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:	<p>The service had a healthy eating policy.</p> <p>It is proposed that parents and guardians will provide food for their child’s snack time.</p> <p>The staff will ensure that each snack will have two food groups. The person in charge will have a supply of food in a pantry store for any child requiring additional food.</p> <p>A drinks table will be available in the playroom and in the outdoor areas during play to allow the children the opportunity to ‘self-serve’ their drinks.</p> <p>Perishables items from children’s lunch boxes will be stored in a designated fridge.</p>
-------------------------	--

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:	<p>General Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main entrance front was secure to prevent unauthorised entry and prevent unsupervised children leaving the pre-school. • The staff only areas - kitchenette and storage areas were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child. • The external play areas were secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area. • The two fire doors were unobstructed. • All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children. • Leads, cables, and flexes were encased, wall mounted and secured to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard. • The air to water heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
-------------------------	---

- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing without risk of scalding the children, was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- The four openable windows were fitted with restrictive access devices / safety systems.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There were no pits or ponds in the designated outdoor area to cause any risk of danger to the proposed pre-school children.
- There was a documented risk assessment system for the indoor and outdoor play areas. The service had a risk assessment system for checking that toys and equipment were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.
- The person in charge clearly identified to the early years inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.
- A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance were kept for all of the children, that will be attending the pre-school.

Infection Control

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The person in charge advised that the outdoor play equipment would be cleaned prior to/ after a child's use, with documented records maintained.
- A refrigerator was provided in the playroom for the storage of perishable foods.
- The playroom was observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows and doors left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- There was a cleaning schedule template and cleaning records for the materials, equipment, and furnishings.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

- Waste disposal in the sanitary areas and playroom were stored in foot pedalled lidded bins and thereby inaccessible to the pre-school children.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Two staff who will be working in the proposed pre-school service have a current first aid responder qualification.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and in an easily accessible conspicuous position, with content items within date.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1)(a) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills.
- (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file.
- Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated August 2023.
- Records indicated that the last annual maintenance certificate for the smoke and fire detection system was dated 13th of September 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.

The services had an insurance with an expiry date 27th of March 2025 which was for a sessional care service for 22 children and included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

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 Providers 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) From a visual inspection the indoor room was of sound and stable structure and there were no observable indications of defects.

(b) The indoor playroom and the outdoor play areas were safe and secure.

(c) There was natural lighting in the playroom with four openable windows and four sealed windows on two of the outer walls.

There were mechanical ventilation systems in the two children's sanitary areas.

The indoor playroom was well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors.

The seven-ceiling artificial tube lights provided in the indoor playroom were shatter proof. Lighting could be dimmed, and windowpanes were fitted with integral blinds.

The air to water heating system had mounted ceiling air conditioning / heating unit that was thermostatically controlled to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C for the playroom. On the day of inspection, the indoor room temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.

The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature of 41.2°C and the person in charge advised it would be no greater than 43°C.

(d) In the proposed indoor playroom, the play and work equipment were clean and in good repair.

Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from / inaccessible to the pre-school children.

From observation, the furnished playroom was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

There was evidence the national school had a professional rodent proofing service for the premises and grounds.

The person in charge advised that there was a professional cleaning service two days of the week after operational hours.

(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.

There were two designated children’s toilets with two designated children’s wash hand basins.

There was a designated adult only toilet with a designated wash hand basin, in the national school.

Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in designated dispensers were within easy access to a pre-school child.

Foot pedal lidded bins were provided in the sanitary areas.

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.
- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate floor space was provided for the free movement of children to work and play.
 - (2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children.
 - (3) The measurement of the proposed playroom floor space was 70 square meters, thus, ensuring a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service.
- A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are no more than 22 children in a room in the service at any time.