

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY217
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Riverview Montessori
-------------------------	----------------------

Address of Service:	Barrack Street, Loughrea, Co. Galway
----------------------------	--------------------------------------

Eircode:	H62 WR67
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Julianne Loughnane
-------------------------------------	--------------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	11/10/2024
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	52	PM	28
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly.
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

This Full Day Care service is located in an urban setting in the town of Loughrea, Co Galway. The premises is detached building with 3 playrooms and an outdoor area to the rear of the building. The service is registered to cater for children aged between 2 years and 6 years. The service is registered to open from Monday to Friday between 8.30 am to 18:00. The service is also registered for a school age service .

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service on a daily basis, there is an additional 7 childcare working in the setting.

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.*

(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 person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider was on the premises and facilitated the inspection. Following a review of the service files and discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that there were 8 members of staff employed in the service since the last inspection. These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a) There was 15 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service.
- (b) There were 2 written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than the previous last employer for an adult working in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service. The service did adhere 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 disclosure was available for 1 adult working in the service as that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.
- (4) All adults working directly with children have obtained 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.

Compliance Information

- (1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the morning of the inspection, there were 52 pre-school children being cared for by 6 adults.
- (2) At 10.20 am on the day of inspection, the following playrooms were in operation.
- Yellow preschool room, there were 2 adults caring for 19 children ages between 2 years 8mts and 4 years of age.
- Green preschool room, there were 2 adults caring for 20 children ages between 2 years 8mts and 4 years of age.
- Blue preschool room, there were 2 adults caring for 13 children ages between 2 years 8mts and 4 years of age.
- An afternoon ECCE session commenced at 12.45 till 3.45
- Red Playroom ,there was 1 staff member caring 9 children aged between 2 years 8 months and 4 years.

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.

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

- There is a healthy eating policy in place, the snacks the children bought the service were observed to consist of sandwiches, fruit and a drink. Children sat at low level tables and had their lunch while chatting and interacting with staff and each other. The children could eat at their own pace and not feel rushed or hurried. The children attending on a Full day care ,also bring their main meal ,the food on the day appeared suitable, varied and healthy.
- Children were encouraged to use the toilet independently; staff could easily supervise as the toilets were adjacent to the playrooms.
- Hand washing was performed regularly during the session, after using the toilet, prior to lunch and returning from outside play. This practice was on various occasions throughout the session.
- The children enjoyed free movement within the preschool room and the outdoor play area, this was observed on the day when children were given the option to playing in the outdoor play .There was a large selection of experiences for the children to enjoy both indoors and outdoors.
- Where an individual care plan was required, the service ensured that the care provided to each child was in line with the child's current developmental needs.
- Each child was encouraged to take part in an activity but they equally had an opportunity to make choices and decisions in what and where they wanted to play with. This was observed on the day when the child decided that they wanted to play with .
- Adults encouraged children to independent, each child was given the responsibility to be the leader in the playroom ,which included handing out the children's bag prior to lunch tables. The leader was heard saying "Cé leis é seo" (who owns this) to the group of children and the child that own it was heard responding in Irish. Each child was also encouraged to put on their own coats before they went outside. The used the technique "toe to tag" method and guided the children rather than doing the task for them.
- Children were observed playing outside in the well-equipped outdoor play area there was a range of experiences for the children to play with ranging from sand play, toy houses, balancing tyres, ride on toys, chalk play and tabletop activities.