

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KK011
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Name of Service:	Callan Montessori School
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Address of Service:	Bankside, Green Street, Callan, Co. Kilkenny
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Eircode:	R95 YH92
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Name of Registered Provider:	Maria Power-Bryan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	24/05/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
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
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Description of service

This sessional service is located in a terraced house on the main street in Callan Co Kilkenny. The house has been adapted to provide a preschool service to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. A sessional Early Years Care and Education scheme (ECCE) is provided to children. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 12:00 hours for 38 weeks per year. The premises consists of two preschool rooms, toilets and a hallway. The service has access to an enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the service.

Staffing

There are three staff working in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. All three staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4)

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),

Regulation 20 Facilities for rest and play,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),
Regulation 26 Fire
Regulation 28 Insurance

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)(b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were three staff employed in the service, including the registered provider. All staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)(b)

There were four written and validated reference available on file for the two staff members. There were two written references available on file for the registered provider which did not require to be validated.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

All three staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service. The policies reviewed on this inspection included the infection control policy and the policy on healthy eating 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.*
- (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.*
- (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)
There were at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service.
- (3)
At 11.00am there were 18 children in the care of 2 staff.
- (8)(a)
There were always two staff on the premises.

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.

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The children attending the service had access to a safe secure outdoor space to the rear of the service. The service had been developed by the registered provider to meet the needs of the children attending the service. There was a variety of stimulating areas for the children to develop their imaginations.

There was a large bug hotel which was the size of a large pallet. The hotel consisted of various textures such as leaves and cork for the various bugs to live in. There was a mud kitchen equipped with a variety of pots, pans and utensils for the children to play with. There was a poly tunnel with seeds growing in pots which the children had planted. There was a large pagoda with tables and chairs underneath for the children to enjoy sitting in and playing in if it was raining. There was a large blackboard with chalk for the children to draw on. There was a buddy bench at the end of the garden. There was a large colourful mural painted on a wooden fence just behind the buddy bench.

There was a large area in the garden where children could dig in the earth. The registered provider had also provided child sized wheelbarrows for the children to move the soil with. The children had a supply of wellies which were kept in the preschool to ensure they always had access to the outdoor area.

(b)

There was a comfortable rest area in the room to the right of the entrance to the service. There were child sized couches and a supply of books for children to read.

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.

Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy which was shared with parents when the children started in the service. On the day of inspection children were observed having their snack. Children were observed having a variety of healthy snacks such as fruit and vegetables diced, yogurt and sandwiches. Children had water to drink. Staff sat with the children encouraging them to share their news making it a sociable time for them.

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

The registered provider took the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the preschool children attending the service:

General Safety:

The external was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service. All cleaning agents were stored on shelves which were inaccessible to children. The outdoor area was safe, suitable, and secure.

Infection Control

Children were supported with hand washing after they used the toilet and after messy play. The service was cleaned, daily and weekly cleaning schedules were maintained in the service

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)

There was a person trained in first aid responder course available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool service.

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)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in April 2024.

(b)

The annual record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was carried out in the service in August 2024. The annual record of the maintenance of the smoke alarm in the premises was carried out in May 2024.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the entrance door to the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance in place in the service to cover the children who were registered to attend.