

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015KK022

Name of Service Early Days Montessori

Address of Service: Glendine Road, Kilkenny, R95C5XV

Email Address: eileen@raggetthomes.com

Name of Registered Provider: Eileen Raggett

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

Proposed change: Additional service type from sessional to part-time & sessional
Change in hours of operation from 09:00 - 12:30 to 08:45 – 13:30.

Proposed Number of Children: 22 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Additional service type from sessional to part-time & sessional
Change in hours of operation from 09:00 - 12:30 to 08:45 – 13:30.

Registered change: Additional service type from sessional to part-time & sessional
Change in hours of operation from 09:00 - 12:30 to 08:45 – 13:30.

Date of Inspection:	2	4	0	7	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: Norma Thornton

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child & Family Agency, Athy Road, Carlow. R93X9C2.

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Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part-Time & Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	31st July 2025

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	Early Days Montessori is a sessional early childhood care and education (ECCE) service in Kilkenny city. The service is registered to operate from 09:00 to 12:30 hours, Monday to Friday as per the ECCE calendar year. A sessional ECCE service is provided for a maximum number 22 children aged from 2 to 6 years of age.
Premises	The service operates from a purpose-built extension onto a garage on adjacent to the registered provider's private residence. The service is comprised of a spacious L shaped classroom, with toilet facilities and a secure outdoor play area at the back of the building.
Staffing	There are four staff members employed in the service, including the registered provider, to work directly with the preschool children. All four staff members have qualifications in early childhood care and education ranging from Level 5 to Level 9 on the national Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) framework.
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</p>

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	the inspection report and taken into consideration when deciding in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a person who can deputise if required. The registered provider stated she does not work directly with the children but is on the premises.

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)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The registered provider proposes to have 4 staff always working directly with the 22 children during the sessional service and part-time 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—

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- (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.*

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)(b)

The classroom design includes the following areas of interest: desk top activities, art area, dress-up clothes, a play kitchen with appropriate play equipment, a wide variety of books, a construction area, soft rest and reading area, Montessori equipment and inviting tabletop activities.

The equipment and toys are stored on low-level shelving and accessible to the children. There are appropriate tables and chairs provided for the children to sit and participate in tabletop activities and to comfortably enjoy their snacks and meals.

The soft rest area is situated away from the main play area and is furnished with low couches and soft cushions. Additionally, there are two child-sized stackable beds available with suitable bedding available should a child need to sleep during the part-time service.

(2)(b)

The registered provider demonstrated that the preschool children have direct access to a spacious outdoor play area via bi-folding doors at the back of the classroom. All 22 children can access the outdoor play area together as the area provides several interest areas.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

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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 requirement is met.</p> <p>The registered provider states that families provide the children’s food for snacks and the children’s lunch during the day. There is a fridge provided in the classroom to store any perishable food contained in the children’s lunches, during the day.</p> <p>The service’s healthy eating policy described the food provision required for children attending the sessional and part-time services and provided parents with the required information on registration of their child at the service.</p>
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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>The requirement is met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The registered provider has a suitable system in place to limit the risk of unauthorised entry or exit from the building. The service had a doorbell and CCTV monitoring system. • There is a cleaning schedule in place. All cleaning equipment and cleaning products are stored in a secure area out of reach of the children. • Liquid soap and disposable towels are available in each of the two children’s toilets, for the children’s use. • All cables and flexes are adequately secured to reduce the potential risks to a child. Electrical sockets are covered if not in use. • Shelving and storage units are stable and secure. • The outdoor area is secured with a child height metal fencing surrounding the play area and a large block wall and wooden gate securing the side entrance to the back of the building.
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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) The registered provider and another staff member are trained in First Aid Responder training and are always available to the children.
- (a)(b) The First Aid box is stored on an open shelf in the classroom.

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 fire fighting 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 is met.

(1) (a)(b)

Records of monthly fire drills are available for review by the inspector. The last fire drill was carried out in June 2025.

Evidence reviewed demonstrated that the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system was serviced in September 2024.

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the entrance hall of the service.

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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 service has adequate insurance to cover a maximum of 22 children attending a part-time service.

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) The registered provider confirmed that they knew of no structural defects and that the building is structurally sound.

(b) The main entrance door to the school has a doorbell call system. The system in place adequately secures the entrance to the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the premises. There is also CCTV monitoring to alert staff as a person approaches the front door of the service.

(c) The classroom has large windows which provide natural lighting and ventilation. There are four artificial ceiling lights, which are fitted with protective covers.

(d) The service was in a well maintained and clean condition on the day of inspection. A cleaning schedule is managed by the registered provider and staff.

(e) The sanitary area provides two child sized toilets and handwash basins.

There is a separate staff toilet located just inside the back door of the registered provider's adjacent residence. Warm water, liquid soap, and disposable paper towels were provided in the sanitary facilities.

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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.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) The clear floor space available in the premises for work, play and movement of children attending the service is adequate for 22 preschool children attending the additional part-time service proposed.
- (2) The clear floor space available measured 54.7 square metres which is adequate for 22 children aged 2 to 6 years attending a sessional ECCE service and a part-time service.