

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KK038		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Jerpoint Montessori		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Jerpoint West, Thomastown, Kilkenny		
<b>Eircode:</b>	R95 R5F6		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mags Davis		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	20/04/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	38	PM N/A
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Child and Family Agency, Ferrybank, Wexford.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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 sessional service is in a rural setting. A service is provided to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 1.00pm for 38 weeks of the year. The premises are purpose-built single-storey premises consisting of four early years rooms. These rooms are called the dinosaur room, the elephant room, the owl room, and the monkey room. There are toilets, a nappy changing facility, an entrance hallway, and an outdoor area to the rear of the service.

### Staffing

There were six staff, including the registered provider and the manager present on the day of inspection. All were working directly with the children. All staff held the minimum of level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

### 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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

- Regulation 9 management and recruitment
- Regulation 11 staffing levels
- Regulation 19 health, welfare and development of child
- Regulation 23 safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child
- Regulation 25 first aid
- Regulation 26 Fire Safety

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, person in charge, 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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

Following a discussion with the registered provider and review of documentation in the service it was established that the service had employed one new staff member since the last inspection on 27 May 2021. All staff files that were examined on the last inspection were compliant. There was one staff file examined on the day of inspection.

1(a)(b)

The registered provider was the person in charge on the day of inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. The manager was also in the service and was available to deputise.

2 (a)(b)

There was one written and validated reference available on file from a previous employer. There was one written and validated reference available on file from a reputable source.

(c)

There were copies of Garda vetting on file for all staff members on the day of inspection.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as the new employee had not lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six months.

(4)

All staff held the minimum of level 5 and above in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

### 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.*

*(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.*

*(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-*

*(a) a sessional pre-school service, and*

*(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).*

### Compliance Information

- (1)
- There were always an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the early years service.
- (2)(3)
- During the morning session there were 38 children in the care of 6 staff.
- The registered provider was present on the day of inspection. The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of staff to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 was always maintained during the period of inspection.

### 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

- (1)(a)
- The registered provider ensured that each child's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service.
  - Children were observed during circle time. The children were observed while they had a story about going on a bear hunt read to them. The children were given different props to fully engage them in the story. For example, children held different animals they might meet when going on a bear hunt.
  - Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development, for example putting on their coats and wellies to go outside. The inspector noted the staff took great care while getting the children to put on their own boots. Children were told to sit on the step to ensure they did not fall over.

- During the activities staff used opportunities to extend children’s learning and development. For example, children were given tasks to complete such as setting the table and putting out the drink bottles at snack time.
- Staff were observed to be attentive to the individual needs of the children in their care. For example, the staff had helped the children to complete some original artwork which was displayed on the walls in the early years rooms. This artwork consisted of a picture of the child and answers to various questions written on the sheet of paper. The children’s likes, dislikes and hopes for the year were written on the display. Staff who spoke to the inspector said this helped them to get to know the children in their care better. For example, one child had said “I want to get really good building plastic bricks”.
- The four early years rooms were laid out and resourced with thought and care. There was a supply of art materials in each room. Quality Montessori equipment was available on open shelving in all rooms. Children were observed by the inspector handling the equipment with care. There was a supply of a variety of reading books also for the children to enjoy.
- The outdoor area was a large, grassed area to the rear of the service. Staff who spoke to the inspector said they tried to ensure the children enjoyed outdoor play as much as possible in the service. There was a mud kitchen, a buddy bench and a shed for storing toys. The children were observed enjoying free play in the area. Children were observed separating into groups and creating their own imaginative games.

### 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

##### General safety:

- The entrance door was secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised people gaining access to the service. The front door was secured by a lock. Access was gained to the service by ringing the bell.
- All cleaning agents were stored on shelves which were inaccessible to children.
- The outdoor area was safe, suitable and secure.

### Infection control:

- The service had an infection control policy. The service appeared to be clean and well maintained. For example, cleaning schedules were maintained daily. There were no obvious maintenance requirements observed on the day of inspection.
- There was warm thermostatically controlled warm water available in all wash hand basins in the service. There was liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal bins available throughout 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 immediately available to the children attending the early years service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the early years 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 the service on 28 March 2023.

(b)

There was a record stating the smoke alarm was last serviced on 29 November 2022 and firefighting equipment was last serviced on 18 May 2022.

(4)

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