

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KK065
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Name of Service:	Over the Rainbow Montessori
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Address of Service:	Ballyouskill Community Hall, via Portlaoise, Ballyouskill, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny
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Eircode:	R32 TR58
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Name of Registered Provider:	Laura Saunders
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	05/12/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Antoinette McNamara
Inspection undertaken by:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary E91RF38
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

Over the Rainbow Montessori is a sessional early years services located in the local community hall of the village of Ballyouskill in county Kilkenny on the Kilkenny-Laois border. The service caters for children aged two to six years of age. The service is open from 09:30 to 13:00 hours, 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

The service is operated by the registered provider who holds a major qualification in early childhood care and education at degree level. There is one additional staff member employed in the service who also holds a major qualification in early childhood care and education.

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.

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

Regulation 10 Polices

Regulation 11(1)(2)(3)(4) Staffing levels,

Regulation 15 (1) (a-i) Record in relation to a pre-school child,

Regulation 21 Equipment and materials

Regulation 25 First aid,
Regulation 26 Fire Safety and
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, 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*

(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,*

(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

(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) On the day of the inspection the registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) The registered provider or their deputy were rostered to be on duty each day at the service.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for both staff working at the service.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for both staff members and adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) There were two staff working directly with children who held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 following policies were assessed for compliance and were deemed to meet the necessary requirements:

- Statement of purpose and function
- Infection control
- Inclusion policy
- Healthy Eating policy
- Outdoor play
- Staff training

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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-
(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children.

(3) The adult child ratios during the day of inspection met the requirements of the regulations. During the morning there were 16 children being directly cared for by 2 staff.

(4) There were always at least 2 adults on the premises.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

(a) the name and date of birth of the child;

(b) the date on which the child first attended the service;

(c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;

(d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;

(e) authorisation for the collection of the child;

(f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;

- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

A sample of completed registration forms were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

- (1) The registration forms contained the required information as detailed under parts (a) to (i) of this regulation.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service consisted of an entrance hall, one large playroom which was very well equipped with a range of Montessori toys, materials and furniture suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending the service. There were child sized tables and chairs for tabletop activities such as jigsaws, arts and crafts and eating at snack time. In one section of the room was a large well stocked reading area and a rest where children could sit. There were low level open shelves around the room where Montessori work, jigsaws/puzzles and manipulative play toys were easily accessible to the children. The room was spacious enough to allow children space to move around freely and play. The outdoor area was fully enclosed to the back of the premises. The children had a variety of activities outside including two playhouses, a kitchen, climbing tyres and a shed with extra resources as needed.

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 were staff trained in first aid responder (FAR) available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

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.

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 on the 4th of December 2024 and staff advised that regular fire drills were completed.

(b) There was a record available demonstrating that the smoke alarm system and the firefighting equipment was last serviced in September 2024.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An in-date certificate was in place to demonstrate that the service was insured to provide a sessional service for the number of children the service is registered to accommodate.