

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY049				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Hannah's House Montessori School				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Presentation Primary School, Castle St, Tralee, Co. Kerry				
<b>Eircode:</b>	V92 X093				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Elizabeth Coleman				
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional				
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	30/01/2025				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>16</td> <td>PM</td> <td>22</td> </tr> </table>	AM	16	PM	22
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.				
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy				
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Hannah's House Montessori is a private early years service that provides a sessional pre-school service to children aged from 2.5 years and 5 years. The service provides 2 sessions, 1 in the morning between the hours of 9:00 am and 12pm, and 1 in the afternoon between the hours of 12:30 pm and 3:30pm, Monday to Friday inclusive.

### Staffing

There are 6 staff employed in the service, that includes the registered provider to work directly with the children.

### 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.

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 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,*
- (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 is the designated person in charge and there is a named deputy.
- (b) At all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the registered provider and the deputy in charge are on the premise.
- (2)
- The deputy in charge who facilitated the inspection confirmed to the inspector that 6 adults were employed in the service.
- The recruitment records in respect of these 6 adults were the subject of the inspection.
- (a)
- Nine written references and validations were on file from a past employer.
- (b)
- Three written references and validations were on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c)
- Garda vetting was on file for each of the 6 adults.
- The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d)
- Police vetting was on file for 3 adults who lived outside of the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 5 and above.

## 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)-*

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children attending the service.

(3) There were 4 adults caring for 16 children aged between 3 years to 5 years attending the service on a sessional basis during the morning session. There were 3 adults caring for 22 children aged between 3 years to 4 years attending on a sessional basis. The adult child ratio was correct and maintained.

(8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

#### Compliance Information

A record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance for each child on a daily basis.
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.

### 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

- The children had opportunities to move about freely in the playroom and in the designated outdoor area during the inspection.
- The service did ensure that the playroom temperature was maintained within a range of 18-22 degrees Celsius, the air temperature was recorded at 19.4 degrees Celsius.
- The service had a designated rest area in the playroom located near the book display, allowing the children to rest and relax during the session as needed. The area consisted of a variety of soft matting and cushions.
- The children had access to a variety of play materials and toys that could freely and independently be taken by them from the low-level open shelving to play with.
- The service supported children in forming and securing positive relationships with the staff caring for them.

- The staff spoke to the children using soft tones of voice, came down to their level by sitting with them at the low-level tables and the tuff trays, making eye contact and being actively involved in the children's play and meeting the needs of children who were attending the service for their 1<sup>st</sup> day.
- There was individual, small and large group play activities catered for during the inspection for example a variety of blocks in a tuff tray, circle time and working with the playdough that is made each day in the service.
- The parents provide all the food consumed on the premise during the hours of operation.
- All the children sanitized their hands under adult supervision prior to the mealtime observed.
- The children sat at their table of choice on the low-level chairs, the lunches were handed out by the children allocated on the helper system.
- The children's perishable food items were stored in the fridge in the playroom to prevent food spoilage.
- The staff supported and enabled the children to open their food packing and lunch bags /boxes. The service provided spoons for yogurts as needed.
- The children's individual needs were accommodated, for example a child who was hungry had food to eat earlier in the session prior to the remainder of the group.
- The food observed included sandwiches, yogurts and a variety of fruit.
- The inspector observed the children who had finished eating before the others went to the rest area with books taken from the book display area.
- The children spent time in the outdoor area and they were appropriately dressed for the outdoors with coats and hats on. The service keeps an outdoor waterproof suit for the children in the premise.
- There was a variety of toys provided for example scooters, trikes, cars and balancing beams.
- The registered provider had a new storage unit in place for the storage of toys used outside.
- The staff greeted the parents/guardians at collection time and at drop off time in a professional and friendly manner.
- The staff accompanied the children from the arrival area to the playroom.
- Prior to going into the playroom the staff supervised, enabled and assisted the children with hanging up their coats on their individual coat hooks and with hand sanitising.
- The service maintained individual folders for the children containing photographs of children participating in various activities for example painting and doing various experiments.
- Prior to the Christmas, the service gave each child a handwritten letter, it wrote about, for example, the staff were so happy to see the child attending playschool each day, happy to see the child really enjoying

painting activities and that the staff will continue to help the child to further develop language skills by using their words.

- The service maintained a large, detailed Learning Journal for the group of children in the service with photographs and details of the activities participated in.

### 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) The registered provider ensured that there were staff available at all times with first aid responder (FAR) training. There were 3 staff with completed in date FAR certifications that were in their respective files.
- (2) (a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored out of the reach of the children in the playroom that was available to the children attending.
- (b) The first aid equipment was available to the children at all times.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was presented to the inspector.

The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured

- the categories of insurance cover for the service that is sessional care.
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 22 children.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'25.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

*(b) safe and secure,*

*(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

- (b)
- The premise was safe and secure on the day of inspection. There was an operational bell entry system in place into the building and the pre-school room door was secured to protect the premises from any unauthorised entry and unsupervised exit of children from the service.
  - The designated outdoor area was fully enclosed by secured doors and gates.
- (e)
- The children had access to toilet facilities located outside of the playroom.
  - There were 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins with warm running water where the temperature of the water did not exceed 43 degrees Celsius, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and a lidded pedal-operated bins.