

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY075
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Maggies Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Clohane, Ironmills, Killarney, Co. Kerry
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V93 NR4C
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Margaret O'Sullivan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	25/04/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	20	PM	No.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

Maggies Montessori is a private early years service that operates between the hours of 09:00 am and 12pm for children aged between the age of 2 years and 6 years. Currently the service provide care for children aged between 3 years and 5 years. The premises is a single-story building located on the site of the registered providers private residence.

### Staffing

There are 3 adults employed in the service, of whom 1 is the registered provider. The 3 adults work daily directly with the children each day.

### 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.

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

*(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

(2) The registered provider confirmed that 1 adult had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 13/11/2020, therefore recruitment records in relation to this adult were reviewed.

(a) 1 written validated reference was on file from a past employer.

(b) 1 reference was on file from a past employer.

(c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file in respect of the 1 adult.

(d) Not applicable as the adult in question did not reside outside the jurisdiction for a period of 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 ensured that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children present.
- (3) There were 3 adults working with 20 children aged between 3 years and 5 years attending on a sessional basis. The adult child ratio was correct.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as 3 adults work each day in the service.

## 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

- (1) The 11 records inspected the required detail as per(a) to (i) inclusive.

## 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;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service..*

### Compliance Information

The following records were kept: -

- (h) details of attendance by a pre-school child on a daily basis.
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

### 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.

#### Compliance Information

##### BASIC NEEDS

- The parents of the children attending the service provide all the food for the children's morning snack.
- The children's drinks were accessible to them in their bags during the session and water was available to re-fill the bottles at the sink in the main playroom.
- A "helper" system was in place whereby children took turns helping each day: - cleaning down the tables under adult supervision prior to the mealtime, tidying the books, taking the coats from the hooks prior to going outside, and helping the adult who led circle time with the children.
- The children sat at the low-level tables in the main playroom with the adults sitting with them at mealtime.
- Ample time was given to the children to eat their food in a relaxed atmosphere where pleasant social interaction among the children and the adults took place.
- The food observed on the day included sandwiches, wraps, rice cakes, fruit scones, brown bread, crackers, yogurts, cheese, cucumber, strawberries, apples and kiwis.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets that were located within the main playroom. The inspector observed the adults were on hand to help if needed, they issued gentle reminders to the children to wash and dry their hands.
- The children enjoyed free unrestricted movement between the 2 playrooms where a wide variety of toys in both rooms and an open sand box were available and accessible to the children for the duration of the session.
- There was designated "quiet seating" that consisted of a bench, single stools, matting on the floor and single cushions. The inspector observed some children used the seating during the session to opt out of an activity for some quiet time.
- There was a designated fully enclosed outdoor play area directly accessible from the second playroom where children played during the inspection.

### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

- The service has established networks with the wider community as evidenced in a recent visit from the local pet farm that. The visit was captured with photographs of the children within their individual learning journals.
- The children’s journals had details of activities they participated in along with photographs. The journals had the child’s photograph and name on the cover, they were stored at children’s level within the playroom where they could be picked up at any time during the session.
- The inspector observed the adults using positive strategies to support children’s inclusion for example appropriate encouragement for participation at circle time and at small group tabletop activities and individual writing skills.
- The adults were kind, caring, patient and understanding of children’s individual needs.
- The adults listened to the children in a caring, gentle way, came down to their level and gave them time to express their emotions, for example when children wanted to be part of a smaller play group play activity.
- The adults encouraged and praised children for specific, positive and appropriate behaviours for example sharing toys and taking turns with their peers.
- The inspector observed the adults meeting and greeting parents in the service in a friendly, welcoming unhurried manner.
- Benches were provided in the outdoor area with an allocated child sized “buddy bench”.

### 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 external door (sliding door) was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised access.
- The large glass panels on the sliding door had notices and stickers in place.
- The cleaning agents observed on inspection were stored on high level shelving out of the reach of the children.
- The outdoor play area was secured.

##### Infection Control:

- There was warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels provided at the wash hand basins to facilitate effective handwashing by the children and by the adults.
- Children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet and prior to snack time.
- A fridge was provided for the hygienic storage of children's perishable food

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

1. The perishable food items were not stored in the allocated fridge provided posing a risk of food spoilage.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### Infection Control:

The registered provider stated that perishable food items will be stored in the fridge.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

The statement provided is accepted as evidence.

#### Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.

## 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) 2 adults present had current First Aid Responder training and the certification was on file.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was in place; it was stored within the playroom on a high-level shelf.

(b) The first aid box was accessible to the adults and was out of the reach of the children

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -

(a) Each fire drill had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 28/04/2023.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm. The records on file demonstrated the last check on the fire extinguishers was 02/08/2022 and the smoke alarm was September 2022.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed in the premises.

### 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 on file.

The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured.
- the category of insurance cover for the service
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 22 children.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'24.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (a) The premise appeared to be sound and stable.
- (b) The facility was safe and secure.
- (c) Both playrooms and the sanitary accommodation were adequately lit, heated (main playroom temperature recorded at 16.6 degrees Celsius, second playroom recorded at 18.1 degrees Celsius and ventilated by means of openable windows which were open during the session.