

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK041		
Name of Service:	Castletroy View Montessori		
Address of Service:	1 Castletroy View, Singland, Limerick		
Eircode:	V94Y584		
Name of Registered Provider:	Sandra Sheedy		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	09/05/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	5	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick		
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan		
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

This private sessional service was established in 1997. It operates a morning session from 09:00 – 12:00 hours Monday – Friday for 38 weeks a year. The service is operated from a room in the registered providers domestic dwelling and the children have access to a pre-school room, sanitary accommodation area and outdoor play facilities. The service offers a play-based curriculum.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service each day and holds a major award in early childhood care and education at level 6 and has engaged in on-going professional development including first aid training.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Childcare 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,15,19,21,25,26 and 28.

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 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 was the designated person in charge and a named emergency person was available to deputise if required.
- (b) The registered provider was on the premises when the inspector arrived at the service.
- (2)(a) Two written references from past employers were available for the registered provider and had been checked on previous inspections of the service.
- (b) Written and verified references from sources other than past employers were not required.
- (c) A garda vetting disclosure was available for the registered provider and had been renewed within the last three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'
- (d) Police vetting was not required as the registered provider had not lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The registered provider held an award in early childhood care and education on the national qualifications framework.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) There were 5 pre-school children aged 3 – 5 years being supervised by 1 adult for the session. The adult/child ratio on the day of the inspection met with the minimum requirements of 1:11.

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) Registration forms were available for each children documented on the attendance records for the service. The information required from (a) – (i) was available for these children.

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) BASIC NEEDS:

The children brought their own packed lunches in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Food observed on the day of the inspection included sandwiches, a selection of fruit and drinks of water. Children sat together around the tables and were given as much time as they needed to eat their food. Children were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation with a supply of hot and cold running water and liquid antibacterial soap. Children toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it. The children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow and a good level of choice of activities. Children were observed to lead their own play and choose different play activities. Learning journals/scrap books for each child with photographic evidence of activities completed were available for parent's information.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The room was equipped with open shelving units where children could access play equipment and materials independently. Play spaces, such as the library area, home corner, construction area, small world area, arts, crafts area, tabletop activities area were available. Children were observed to choose play materials, complete an activity independently.

Soft seating was available in the room where children could rest/ relax in and have some quiet time if they choose to opt out of an activity.

Good supplies of books were available which helped support language development. The walls of the rooms were decorated with posters and the children's artwork.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a) BASIC NEEDS:

1. A documented programme of activities or curriculum plan which demonstrated play as the primary mode of learning and to support childrens learning and development was not available or displayed.
2. There were no sensory play materials such as water or sand available to the children in the playroom or the outdoor play area. Natural play materials such as sand and water enhance childrens motor skills, social and emotional awareness, improve language, speech, spark creativity and improve concepts of science.

3. Childrens names or their pictures were not displayed overhead their coat hooks to promote their independence , self-care skills and support their identity and belonging.
4. Children did not go outdoors to play on the day even though the weather was fine and dry.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service follows the Aistear curriculum and is an emergent curriculum which follows the child's interests. Aistear short term and medium-term templates are used for documentations.

The outside area was cleaned and the water table is in use once again and cleaned prior to every use.

Photographs have been displayed along with the child's name over their coat hook and this will be the practice on an ongoing basis. Pictures will be taken at the beginning of the school year and displayed over the hook with the child's name.

The outside area has been cleaned after building work and a system in place to check the area before the children arrive each day. Cleaning schedules have also been put in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted of curriculum plan template documents, sand and water play activities and names and pictures overhead childrens coat hooks.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet the regulatory requirements of Regulation 19.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

Adequate and suitable play and work equipment were not available as evidenced by:

1. Both child sized couches in the playroom were torn and stained.
2. The floor mat placed between both couches was dirty and the floor behind the couches was dusty and dirty.

3. The water table in the outdoor play area was filled with dirty water which posed an infection control hazard.
4. There were two large planks of timber and a drainpipe in the outside play area which posed a safety hazard.
5. Shelving against the wall was broken in the playroom.
6. A childrens play ironing board was stained and dirty.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The couches in playroom have been replaced.
2. The floor mat has been removed from the playroom and professionally cleaned.
3. No response received.
4. The planks of timber were removed, and drainpipe secured.
5. Broken shelving has been removed from the room.
6. The Ironing board in the playroom has been recovered.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Receipts for the childrens couches were submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider have addressed points 1, 2, 4, 5 6.

No response was received on what action was taken to address point 3 and remains outstanding.

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 held current certification in first aid for children.

(2)(a) A first aid box was stored in the playroom.

(b)The first aid box was available at all times if required by a child.

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) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place in April 2024.

(b)The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in September 2023 and a record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises.

(4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was available to cover the number of children in attendance.