

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK078
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Name of Service:	Glin Montessori Preschool
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Address of Service:	Cahara Glin Co Limerick
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Eircode:	V94E2CK
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Name of Registered Provider:	Margaret O'Sullivan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	08/02/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	25	PM	No.
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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 1996. It operates a sessional service from 09:15 – 12:15 hrs and a childminding service from 12.15hrs to 17.00hrs Monday – Friday for 38 weeks a year.

The service provides a Montessori and play based curriculum. A maximum of 33 preschool children are allowed attend. A school aged service is not provided. The service is operated from a purpose-built facility attached to the registered providers domestic dwelling and the children have access to two pre-school rooms, sanitary accommodation and facilities for outside play.

Staffing

Five staff work in the service each day which includes the registered provider. All staff have childcare qualifications and two of these staff are employed by an outside agency.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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

Additional Information

08/02/2024:

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider in relation to a non-compliance with Regulation 25 First Aid. A person trained in first aid for children was not at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

12/02/2024:

A response received from the registered provider demonstrated that there are now two staff with have up to date first aid training.

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

(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,

(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 person in charge and a named person to deputise as required was available.

(b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived.

(2)(a) The registered provider had ensured that each employee was suitable and competent as the following documents were available for staff. Two written references from past employers were available for all staff members. The registered provider of the service had validated references that were on file for four of the five staff present.

(b) Written and verified references from sources other than past employers were available where required.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all staff members.

(d) Police vetting was available for a staff member who had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) All staff working directly with the children attending the service held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) Evidence was not available to demonstrate that the registered provider had validated two references for a member of staff who was present on the day of the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a) All staff references have been validated by the registered provider and going forward all references will be validated prior to staff commencing work in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence not submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet with the regulatory requirements of regulation 9(2)(a).

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) An adequate number of staff were working directly with the children for the morning sessional service.

There were 25 pre-school children aged 2 years 8 months - 5 years being supervised by 5 staff for the sessional service.

The childminding service did not operate on the day of the inspection as there was no child scheduled to attend 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) A sample of 12 children’s records were inspected and the following information was contained on each child’s record.

(1)(a), (b),(c),(d),(e), (f), (g), (h),(i).

There were records available for all children on the register.

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, crackers and drinks of water. Drinking water was available throughout the session if a child needed a drink. The children sat together around the lunch tables and were given as much time as they needed to eat their food.

All of the children were toilet trained and toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it. Sensory play materials were available to the children in the rooms.

Adults were observed to be interested in the children, listened to them and spoke to them using a soft tone of voice and positive language, engaging them in conversation and giving each child the opportunity to express themselves.

The children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow.

The adults modelled positive behaviour for the children and the children were praised for their good behaviour. Documented curriculums were based on children's emergent interests.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

This sessional service was operated from two rooms in the registered providers purpose-built service in a rural setting.

The children had access to one pre-school room within the main building, the garage (to be used by the outdoor playgroup when weather is not suitable for children to be outside), sanitary accommodation areas and an outdoor play area. Rest/quiet areas were evident in both rooms of the service and were observed to be used by the children on the day of the inspection. A selection of reading books were accessible to the children and children were observed to paint art activities, hand prints and play with building blocks.

Defined interest areas were evident where children were allowed choose their own play materials.

The outdoor play area was fenced and secured, and outdoor play area included a slide, a large playhouse, a tunnel, picnic benches, climbing ropes, a mud kitchen and two large planting boxes.

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

(2)(a) There were suitably equipped first aid boxes available and easily accessible on site in both playrooms.

(b) The first Aid boxes were available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) A person trained in first aid for children and/or first aid response was not at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on 08/02/2024 regarding Regulation 25 First Aid.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) 12/02/2024: A response received from the registered provider demonstrated that there are now two staff with up to date first aid training. A full-time staff member has attended the 3-day First Aid Responder course which was completed on the 16th of February.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of first aid certificates for 2 staff members

Copy of first aid responder training for 1 staff member

The registered provider is awaiting certification to be issued for the staff member who has completed First Aid Responder training.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider meet with the regulatory requirements of regulation 25(1).

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)(a) A record to evidence that fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis was available. The last recorded fire drill took place on 06/02/2024.
- (b) The firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were serviced on an annual basis, most recently in September 2023. A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in both rooms of the service.

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 for the number of children attending the service.