

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK086
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Huntsfield Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	1 The Meadows Huntsfield, Dooradoyle Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 T6DC
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Paula Waite
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	25/09/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	5	PM	5
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Estuary House, Henry Street Limerick
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J Ryan
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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

This is an early years private montessori preschool which first opened in 2006. The service provides sessional education and care to preschool children aged 2.5 to 5 years of age. The service operates two sessions from 08.45hrs - 11.45hrs and from 12.15hrs - 03.15hrs and the setting caters for a maximum of 6 children for each session. The service is located in a domestic dwelling in an urban area. It is a one roomed service including sanitary accommodation and has facilities for outdoor play located at the rear of the service where children have access to outdoor play equipment.

### Staffing

The registered provider is the only staff employed in the service and has completed a degree in montessori education. A second adult is available nearby to provide assistance in the event of an emergency.

### 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.

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 sole operator and person in charge in the service.
- (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) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider and emergency contact person and were dated within the last 3 years.
- (d) Police vetting was available as the registered provider had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The registered provider working directly with the children attending the service had a degree in montessori education.

### 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 morning session and there were 5 pre-school children aged 3 – 5 years being supervised by 1 adult for the afternoon session.

### 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)- (i) A sample of 4 records for preschool children were examined and all the information required from (1) a- i was maintained on each record.

## 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

#### BASIC NEEDS

Parents provided snacks for the children who attended in line with the healthy eating policy of the service, these included fruit, sandwiches, crackers and yogurts. There was a fridge available for the storage of perishable foods and drinks prior to their consumption. All children were toilet trained and toileted independently with assistance given if required. The children were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times during the sessions such as on arrival to the service, after toileting and before eating.

Hand washing took place using hot water, liquid soap and paper towels. Tissues were freely available to children. The children could rest as desired throughout the morning on the child sized couch in the library area. The children enjoyed freedom of movement within the room.

Children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow and a wide level of choice of activities. The adult modelled positive behaviour for the children and the children were praised for their good behaviour.

### **SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN**

The registered provider was observed to be kind, caring, calm and patient in all her interactions with the children and used positive language. The registered provider was observed to be interested in the children, listened to them and spoke to them using soft tones of voice and engaging them in conversation and giving each child the opportunity to express themselves. Parents were made welcome in the service at collection times during which they had the opportunity to share information about their child and their day. The children were observed to put on their coats and caps independently when they were going home. The curriculum was based on children's emergent interests as detailed on the wall posters. Children were observed to work in small groups at different activities on floor mats on the floor or alternatively doing tabletop activities such as building blocks and playing with playdough.

### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT**

This sessional service was operated from a domestic dwelling in an urban area. The children had access to one room, sanitary accommodation area and an outdoor play area. The room was well resourced with a wide range of equipment, including real items, natural and sensory material and a library area. Materials were rotated according to the learning needs of children in the group. Defined interest areas included practical life, cultural area, mathematical, science, history, geography and language areas.

The outdoor play area was an enclosed, safe, secure area at the rear of the premises with a grass surface.

## **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 had up to date training in First Aid Responder(FAR).
- (2) (a) The first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible position in the playroom.
- (b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

## 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) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place in September 2024.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in August 2024 and a record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and mains powered 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 for the number of children who attended and had an expiry date of 27/11/2024.