

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.:	TU2015LK155							
Name of Service	Saint Anthonys Montessori School							
Address of Service:	Mungret Soccer Club, Rathmale, Mungret, Co. Limerick, V94 ND8P							
Email Address:	niamha.cusack@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Provider:	Niamh Cusack							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional			
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	Change in service type from sessional to part time & sessional Change in hours of operation from 09:00 – 12:00 to 08:00 - 13:00 Change in number of staff employed from 2 to 3 staff							
Proposed Number of Children:	18(Max 16 part-time) children							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Part-time & sessional service from 08:00 – 13:00, 3 staff							
Registered change:	Change in service type from sessional to part time & sessional Change in hours of operation from 09:00 – 12:00 to 08:00 - 13:00 Change in number of staff employed from 2 to 3 staff							
Date of Inspection:	1	5	0	7	2	0	2	5
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan and S O Brien							
Title:	Early Years Inspectors							

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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 2nd Floor Estuary House Henry Street, Limerick
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Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Part-Time & Sessional Service for 18(Max 16 part-time) children
Date of Registration	28th August 2025

Authority to Inspect
The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	This Montessori sessional service was established in 2008. It currently operates a morning session from 09:00 – 12:00hrs, Monday – Friday for 38 weeks a year. The service offers a play-based curriculum through the Montessori ethos.
Premises	The service operates from a designated room in a community building in a rural setting. The children have access to one playroom, a sports hall, sanitary accommodation areas and outdoor play facilities.
Staffing	Two adults work in the service each day and the registered provider provides relief cover. All three staff have childcare qualifications ranging from level 5 to level 8 on the national qualification’s framework.
Methodology	The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.

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	The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.
Acknowledgements	The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and staff 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.

Requirement met:	(1)(a) There will be a designated person in charge and a named person who will be able to deputise as required available at all times while the service is operational.
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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.

Requirement not met:	(1) It is proposed that three staff will operate the service on a daily basis, however a staff roster was not available to demonstrate that the adult to child ratio will be in compliance with Regulation 11 at all times while the service is in operation.
Response from Provider:	A staff roster was submitted demonstrating that there will be two adults present in the service at all times. A third staff member will also be available if required.
Summary Comment:	The requirements have been met in relation to Regulation 11.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Requirement met:	(1)(a) The playroom is well equipped with play materials and equipment. The room has areas of interest developed, and all play equipment is stored on low level shelving readily accessible to children. Facilities for outdoor play are available on site. (3)(a) Facilities for outdoor play are available on site and are safe and secure.
Requirement not met:	(1)(b) A suitable rest area was not available in the playroom for children to use if they are tired and require a rest or want to opt out of an activity and have some quiet time. Low level sleep beds were not available for sleep for the children who propose to attend if required. Suitable bed linen was not available for the low-level beds when they become available.
Response from Provider:	A suitable rest area has been developed in the playroom. Sleep beds and bed linen are available should a child need to sleep or rest while in the service.
Summary Comment:	The requirements have been met in relation to Regulation 20.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

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Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The service has a healthy eating policy in place for the service. The parents are provided with a copy of the healthy eating policy to encourage them to provide adequate, suitable, nutritious and varied food/drinks for their child while attending the Early Childhood care and Education service (ECCE).

Parents of children who attend parttime will be required to provide healthy snacks for their child. Additional snacks will be provided by the service if required.

Children will have access to drinking water throughout the day.

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.

Requirement met:

- The entrance door was secured preventing unauthorised access and preventing a child leaving the service unsupervised.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Safe storage was provided for the children’s belongings.
- Storage for cleaning materials and equipment was provided in a secure area out of reach of the children.
- The person in charge was advised that water temperatures must be maintained at or below 43°C. Water temperatures recorded in the lady’s sanitary accommodation was 27.7°C and, in the gentlemen’s sanitary accommodation was 24.3°C.
- There were no trailing flexes and there was no television in the service.
- All toys and play equipment were checked by staff regularly and were safe for the age of the children using them.

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Requirement not met:	The outdoor area is used by other community groups. Evidence was not available to demonstrate that the outdoor play area is risk assessed each day to ensure its safety in relation to the area being free of hazards such as glass, sharp objects and rubbish.
Response from Provider:	Risk assessment documentation has been submitted in relation to the safety of the outdoor play area.
Summary Comment:	The requirements have been met in relation to Regulation 23.

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.

Requirement met:	<p>(1) Two staff members had updated training in first aid responder, and the certificates are valid until June 2027.</p> <p>(2)(a) There were suitably equipped first aid boxes available on the premises in the playroom.</p> <p>(b) The first aid boxes were available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.</p>
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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.

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Requirement met:	<p>(1)(a) A record in writing was kept of fire drills practiced monthly and documentation was available to demonstrate this.</p> <p>(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the premises was available, and equipment was last maintained in January 2025.</p> <p>Smoke alarms were last serviced during February 2025.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the playroom.</p>
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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:	<p>The registered provider had ensured that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change from a sessional service to a parttime service and has an expiry date of 27 November 2025.</p> <p>An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection.</p> <p>The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.</p>
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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,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

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<p>Requirement met:</p>	<p>The premises appeared of</p> <p>(a) Of sound and stable structure.</p> <p>(b) Safe and secure.</p> <p>(d) The premises was maintained in a clean condition.</p> <p>(e) Nappy changing facilities will be provided if a child proposes to attend who has not completed toilet training. The service proposes to enrol children who are toilet trained and 3 years of age.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(c)</p> <p>1. There was no means of natural ventilation in the playroom. There was only one window in the room which measured 92 inches x 17 inches, and this window could not be opened to allow fresh air to circulate within the room.</p> <p>2. A shatter proof diffuser cover for one of the florescent lights was not in place to cover the light bulb.</p> <p>3. Documentation which stated when the heating system was serviced was not available.</p> <p>4. A functioning room thermometer was not available to check the room temperature to ensure it is maintained between 18- 22°C.</p> <p>5. Documentation which stated that the building was rodent proofed recently was not available.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>A sufficient number of and suitable sanitary facilities were not available for the number of proposed staff and children who will attend the part time service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One toilet and wash hand basin are required for every eight adults. - One toilet and separate wash hand basin is required for every 11 toilet trained children <p>There are three toilets and 2 wash hand basins available in the separate ladies and gentlemen’s sanitary space. The sanitary areas which are to be assigned to the adult and the children were identified.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>An openable window has been installed in the playroom.</p> <p>The light fitting has been repaired.</p>

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	<p>Evidence that the heating system was serviced was submitted.</p> <p>Evidence that a functioning room thermometer is available was submitted.</p> <p>Documentation demonstrating that there is appropriate pest control in the building is available.</p> <p>An additional wash hand basin has been installed in accordance with the requirements.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirements have been met in relation to Regulation 29.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:	<p>(1)(2) Adequate clear floor space is available in the playroom for the work, play and movement of the children attending.</p> <p>The room measurements were 6.9m x 5.3m = 36.57 sqm.</p>
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- Allowing 2.3 sqm per child who attends the service parttime, aged between 3-6 years a maximum of 16 pre-school children is allowed attend in this room at any one time.