

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015MH196

**Name of Service:** The Montessori Story

**Address of Service:** 24 Balrath Wood, Mullingar Road, Kells, Co Meath, A82  
KK29

**Email Address:** kells@montessoristory.ie

**Name of Registered Provider:** Lynda Carroll

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Change in Number of Children from 33 to 43
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	43
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	The service can accommodate 43 children.
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in Number of Children from 33 to 43 children

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	5
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**Inspection undertaken by:** D. Murray  
**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
**Proposed Change of Circumstance**

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	<b>Registered Sessional Service for 43 Children</b>
<b>Date of Registration</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b>

### 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>The Montessori Story provides a sessional service to children from 2 to 6 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE). The sessional service is currently registered to operate from 09:00 to 12:00 hours and from 12:00 to 15:30 hours. The service consists of 3 care rooms with an outdoor space located to the rear of the premises.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes the following:</p> <p>To open the following 2 existing rooms which were previously used for storage:</p> <p>Downstairs: New Front room to accommodate children from 2 to 6 years attending on a sessional basis.</p> <p>Upstairs: New Front room to accommodate children from 2 to 6 years attending the service on a sessional basis.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service consists of the following rooms:</p> <p>Downstairs: Rooms 1 &amp; 2 provide care and education to children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years.</p> <p>Upstairs: Room 3 facilitates the care of children from 2 years 6 months to 6 years.</p> <p>Other facilities in the building include children and staff sanitary facilities, an office and a kitchen.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	The registered provider employs a manager and 5 staff members

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<p><b>Methodology</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Acknowledgements</b></p>	<p>The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

### 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) The requirement has been met.

The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

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.*
- (8) *Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—*
- (b) *a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and*
- (c) *a registered provider of a sessional pre-school 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.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirements have been met.

The requirement has been met. A manager is appointed along with 5 staff members to work directly with the children attending the service. The registered provider is aware of the ratios under reg 11 and has advised of the staffing levels in each care room.

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.*

**Requirement met:**

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play materials and play equipment in the care rooms are visible and easily accessible to the children on open shelving at their height which supports children to have choices in selecting materials and equipment to play with. Tables and chairs are appropriate to the age and stage of development of pre-school children who will attend the care rooms. The care rooms are well resourced and have areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials and a range of suitable toys.</li> <li>• Equipment in the outdoor space included a mud kitchen, wooden activity unit with a slide, free standing slide, ride on tricycles, wooden playhouse with slide and ladder, plastic activity unit, activity tray, climbing frame, tyres, water/sand trays, basketball stands, climbing tunnel and a wooden shed used for storage.</li> </ul> <p>(b) The requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cosy areas consisting of soft furnishings with cushions are available in the care rooms for children to take a break from activities if needed.</li> </ul>
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

**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 requirement has been met.  
 A healthy eating policy was available for the service. The children will all bring their own lunches and drinks.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 requirement has been met.

- On the day of inspection both the indoor and outdoor environment appeared safe. Risk assessments will be conducted each day. The registered provider has a clear understanding of her role and range of responsibilities to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the children.

### 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:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) An adequate number of staff have up to date First Aid Responders course and will be available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) and (b) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and were safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the care rooms and will be available at all times.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A template is available to record fire drills that take place in the service.

(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The firefighting equipment was last serviced in December 2024. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 16/10/2025.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is conspicuously displayed on the premises.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for the number of children per session. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28/11/2024 to the 27/11/2025.

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.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(a) The inspector observed the walls, doors and windows were suitably maintained, and the inspector did not identify any safety issues or concerns.

(b) The door to the service was secured and the outdoor space was enclosed by walls with 2 secure gates. These security measures ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor spaces.

(c) Windows provide natural lighting to the care rooms. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights were fitted with shatter proof coverings.

Heating is provided through secure wall mounted oil heaters. The temperature of the care room was between 19 to 21°C on the day of inspection.

Natural ventilation is provided by opened doors and windows.

(d) The rooms were clean on the day of inspection. Cleaning schedules were available to document regular cleaning of the service.

	<p>(e)The children’s sanitary facilities consisted of the following:</p> <p>Downstairs:</p> <p>Three children toilet closets and three sinks.</p> <p>One staff toilet and 1 sink.</p> <p>Upstairs:</p> <p>Two children toilet closets, 2 sinks and 1 free standing nappy changing unit.</p> <p>Warm water not exceeding 43°C, liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided in all sanitary facilities. Bins were provided for the disposal of paper hand towels.</p>
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**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.*

*(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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space was available in the premises for the work, play and movement of the children proposed at the morning and afternoon session.</p> <p>(3) The registered provider ensured that a minimum of 1.818 m<sup>2</sup> of clear floor space was available for each child attending the service on a sessional basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed New Front room downstairs has clear floor space of 13.46m<sup>2</sup>. This provides sufficient space for the proposed 5 children between the ages of 2 to 6 years attending the service on a sessional basis.</li> <li>• The proposed New Front room upstairs has clear floor space of 12.98 m<sup>2</sup>. This provides sufficient space for the proposed 5 children between the ages of 2 to 6 years attending the service on a sessional basis.</li> </ul>
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