

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015MO039

Name of Service: Derrywash Montessori Preschool & Afterschool

Address of Service: Derrywash N.S, Derrywash, Castlebar, Co Mayo, F23 T659

Email Address: deeze.mcdonnell@gmail.com
derrywashmontessori@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Deirdre McDonnell

Type of Proposed Service:	Sessional	✓	Part-Time		Drop-In	
	Full Day Care		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Change from Indoor Sessional to Outdoor Sessional with new sanitary units and portacabin.

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Registered change: Change from Indoor Sessional to Outdoor Sessional service

Dates of Inspection:	0	8	0	9	2	0	2	1
	2	1	0	9	2	0	2	1

Inspection undertaken by: Siobhan Gallagher

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Year's Inspectorate,
TUSLA, Child and Family Agency,
2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ.,
Castlebar,
Co. Mayo.

Rationale for Inspection :

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status: Registered Outdoor Sessional Service for 22 children

Date of Registration 24/09/2021

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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	Derrywash Montessori Preschool & Afterschool is a privately operated childcare service. The service proposes to provide one morning session from 09:00-12:00 hours, five days per week throughout the academic year in an outdoor setting. The service proposes to be registered to cater for a maximum of twenty-two children.
Premises	The service is located in a rural area on the grounds of Derrywash National School, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. The proposed premises comprises of an enclosed outdoor area with developed areas of interest, a pre-fabricated building, a wooden shed, a polytunnel and sanitary facilities.
Staffing	The registered provider proposes to employ two adults to work directly with the children in the service.
Methodology	<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 two themes; Governance, and Safety.</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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider and Manager 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:	<p>(1)</p> <p>(a) The registered provider has ensured that the service has a named designated person in charge and a named person available to deputise as required in the service.</p>
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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.*
- (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 requirement is met.

- (1) The registered provider proposes to ensure that there will be at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service by providing two adults to care for twenty-two children aged from two to six years of age on a sessional basis.
- (8)
- (b) Not applicable as the service is not a childminding service.
- (c) Not applicable as the service is not proposed to be operated single-handedly.

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.*
- (2) *A registered provider—*
- (b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*
- (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 or*
- (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary*

pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

(5) Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.

<p>Requirement met:</p>	<p>(1)(a) The requirement has been partially met. Outdoors: There are suitably equipped, clearly defined areas of interest in the outdoor area which include a home corner with a mud kitchen, an art area, a construction area with blocks, hopscotch, a pirate ship, a music wall, a tepee, slides, a swing and an activity centre with a playhouse. A water wall and a sand table are provided for messy play. Indoors: The prefabricated building, polytunnel and art shed had toys and equipment available in open shelving at a low level to facilitate a child-led learning environment Age-appropriate table-top activities including Montessori equipment are also provided in addition to art supplies. A selection of age-appropriate books is provided in a book area located beside the rest area.</p> <p>(2) (a) The service has exclusive use of the outdoor area. Not applicable as the proposed service is based outdoors exclusively and does not consist of the service moving location.</p> <p>(3) Not applicable. (4) Not applicable. (5) Not applicable.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(1) (a)The polytunnel was not suitable to be utilised for the care of children in the event of heavy rainfall due to the extreme noise levels. (b)The rest area was located in the polytunnel with no measures in place to control light if required for rest and sleep.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>(1) (a)In the event of extremely heavy rainfall any child uncomfortable the noise level will be guided to other sheltered areas within the secured garden. (b)The AIM resource pop -up dark tent will be used to control light for rest and sleep if required. Evidence pertaining to actions undertaken was submitted to the Office of Early Years Inspectorate on the 17th September 2021.</p>
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>The actions taken together with the evidence submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate has been reviewed and deemed to have met the requirements of the regulation.</p>

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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:	<p>The service proposes that food to be eaten by the children whilst in attendance in the service will be provided by parents</p> <p>The service proposes that individual labelled drink bottles containing water or juice will be provided from home.</p> <p>Potable water is not available on site. In the event that potable water is required, it will be obtained from the staff room in the National School on the same grounds</p> <p>The service’s healthy eating policy contains information on the core requirements to demonstrate that adequate, suitable, nutritious food and drink is to be provided in the service.</p>
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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:	<p>The following safety measures were in place on the premises:</p> <p>General Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emergency exit doors were free from obstruction. • The windows in the cabin have securing devices to restrict opening. • The shelving units comprised of wide stable bases and did not pose a risk of toppling. • All the toys and play equipment are in good condition and age-appropriate for the children’s use. • The hot water supply to the wash hand basins is thermostatically controlled to ensure the temperature remained below 43°C. • Secure storage is provided for cleaning materials on a high shelf in the sanitary area. <p>Infection Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A refrigerator is provided for the storage of any perishable items for children’s snacks. • The infection control policy outlined the management of COVID-19 in the service.
Requirement not met:	<p>General Safety</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The timber surface on the edges of the doors on the sanitary units, the wooden bench located in the outside area and the art shed door had jagged pieces of wood exposed. 2. A storage box containing bottles of art paint was overhanging on a shelf located above a children’s seating area in the art shed. 3. The fire extinguisher located in the prefabricated building was not anchored. 4. The heater for the prefabricated building was not mounted to the wall. 5. A trailing garden hose was not secured out of reach of children.

6. The ground surface at the base of the green slide section of the activity centre was not impact resistant.
7. All areas of the picket fencing at the front of the service had footholds.
8. Sections of the picket fence at the rear of the service had gaps between the base of the fence and the ground.
9. One area of the wire fencing at the side of the service was damaged.
10. Areas of the natural boundary between the “Enchanted Forest” and the adjoining field were not secure.
11. A rocky area beside the outdoor sink provided a foothold for the boundary fence.
12. The gates located at the front and rear of the service were not secured to prevent unauthorised entry into the service.
13. A wooden table and play equipment positioned beside the fence at the front of the service, tyres located at the rear of the service, the music wall, water wall provided a foothold for the fences surrounding the service.

Infection Control

14. There were no foot pedal operated bins available in the service.
15. The fabric on the two seats in the rest area was stained.
16. There is no designated isolation area in the event of a suspected case of COVID-19.

Response from Provider:

General Safety

1. The carpenter sanded the timber surface on edges of doors in the sanitary units, the wooden bench and the art shed door.
2. The art paint has been taken from the storage box so that the pose of risk of the box falling from the shelf onto the children’s seating area has been removed.
3. A new free standing fire extinguisher stand has been installed by the fire protection engineers.
5. The trailing hose has been secured.
6. Appropriate rubber matting has been placed at base of the green slide.
7. The picket fencing at front of the service has been adjusted to remove any footholds.
8. The picket fence at the rear of the service has been adequately lowered to reduce the gap.
9. The wire fencing has been repaired.
10. The natural boundary located between the enchanted forest and adjoining field has been secured with the addition of a new fence and extra natural foliage.
11. Height has been added to the boundary fence and larger stones have been removed at the rocky area beside the outdoor sink so that it no longer provides a foothold.
12. Additional locks have been added to every gate in the service to prevent unauthorised access to the service.

Infection Control

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	<p>14. Foot operated pedal bins are now available in the sanitary units and the cabin.</p> <p>15. The art shed is the designated isolation area in the event of a suspected case of Covid-19 and signage has been put in place.</p> <p>16. The cushioned fabric on the two seats has been removed and now have washable and wipeable covers which will be cleaned each day or as required.</p> <p>Evidence pertaining to actions undertaken was submitted to the Office of Early Years Inspectorate on 14th, 16th, 17th and 20th September 2021.</p>
Summary Comment:	The actions taken together with the evidence submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate and the findings on the 2 nd day of inspection has been reviewed and deemed to have met the requirements of the regulation.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:

- (1) The service provided evidence that an adult had undertaken training in First Aid for children which was valid until the 3rd July 2023.
- (2)
- (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in an easily accessible position in the art shed and is to be available at all times to children attending the pre-school service.

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 document was available in the service for the recording of fire drills to be undertaken in the service on a monthly basis.
- (b)
- A record was kept in the service of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The fire-fighting equipment

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- and the smoke alarms were last maintained in August 2021 according to the records available in the service.
- (4) A notice outlining the assembly point in the event of a fire was displayed in the Pre-fabricated building.

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.
Adequate insurance cover for the proposed service is in place for a maximum of 22 children and was valid until the 28th of February 2022.

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:

- (a) The service has been relocated to an outdoor setting. On visual inspection, the prefabricated structure, art shed, polytunnel and sanitary facilities appeared to have no visible deficits.
- (c) **Lighting:**
There is natural and artificial lighting provided in the prefabricated building, the art shed and the sanitary facilities with natural lighting being the sole source in the polytunnel. The level of lighting is suitable for the provision of an early years' service. Protective covers are provided for the light fittings.
- Heating:**
The air temperature of the prefabricated building, the art shed, the sanitary facilities and the polytunnel were all recorded within the required range of 18-22°C for a playroom during the inspection.
- Ventilation:**
The prefabricated building had openable windows and trickle vents, the sanitary facilities had trickle vents and the polytunnel was ventilated by openable windows on both doors.
- (d) The premises were clean and well maintained throughout.
- (e) There is two sanitary units with a toilet and a wash hand basin is available for twenty-two children proposed to attend the session. The adults in the service have access to sanitary facilities within the National School. Warm running water controlled under 43°C, liquid soap and paper towels are provided for handwashing purposes.

Requirement not met:

- (e) Only one wash hand basin could be operated at any time in the children's sanitary

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	area, due to flow of water stopping in one unit when both were in use simultaneously.
Response from Provider:	(e) A plumber adjusted the water flow level to ensure both sinks are operational. Evidence pertaining to actions undertaken on the 9 th September was submitted to the Office of Early Years Inspectorate on 14 th September 2021.
Summary Comment:	The actions taken together with the evidence submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate has been reviewed and deemed to have met the requirements of the regulation.

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>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The clear floor space in the playroom measured 45.78 square metres which can accommodate the maximum 22 children proposed to attend the service at any one time on a sessional basis.</p> <p>(2) Not applicable. It is not proposed to operate a full day care or part-time day care service.</p> <p>(3) The minimum space requirements for the numbers of children attending in a sessional service capacity has been met as detailed in paragraph (1) above.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable as a sessional service only is proposed.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable as a sessional service only is proposed.</p>
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