

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015MO055

Name of Service: Hunt Montessori School

Address of Service: Behybaun, Foxford Road, Ballina, Co Mayo. F26 FW32

Email Address: maryhamrockhunt@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Mary Hunt

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

Proposed change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated
Proposed Number of Children:	22 children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	22 children
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 16 to 22

Date of Inspection:	0	8	0	9	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: M Farrell
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 Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	12 th September 2023

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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	Hunt Montessori School a privately owned and operated early years' service located on the outskirts of Ballina, Co. Mayo. The service is registered to provide services for children aged from two to six years of age and provides a morning session from 09:00-12:00midday and an afternoon session from 12:30-15:30 hours.
Premises	The service operates from a dedicated section of the registered provider's home that has been recently extended with a large playroom and sanitary facilities provided. There is a small enclosed outdoor area to the side of the building and a large outdoor area to the rear of the building.
Staffing	There are four staff in the service including the registered provider who works directly with the children in the service and relief staff.
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 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>
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was 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) The requirement has been met.
 The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named deputy person in charge.

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 met:

The requirement has been met.
 (1) It is proposed that 2 adults will work with up to 22 children availing of sessional services during the morning session and 3 staff will work directly with 22 children in the afternoon session and maintain the adult: child ratios of;

- 1:11 for children aged between 2 ½ and 6 years of age.

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.

(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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.
 (1)(a) Adequate and suitable play facilities are in place to cater for children aged from two years to six years.
 The playroom has a wide variety of age-appropriate toys and equipment available at a low level to facilitate a child-led learning environment. A large amount of Montessori equipment and activities are provided and arranged in defined areas of mathematics, language, practical life skills and sensory perception. Other

	<p>defined interest areas include a well-equipped home corner with kitchen, dolls with buggies, transport area and construction area. A large supply of age-appropriate books are available beside the rest area. Art and craft equipment are provided, and messy play will be facilitated using play dough and the sand and water boxes outdoors.</p> <p>The tables and chairs in the playroom are suitable for the age range of the children proposed to attend.</p> <p>Adequate amounts of outdoor play equipment are provided in the outdoor areas for the proposed numbers of children including sand and water tables, ride on toys, swing set, slide, goal posts and hula hoops. There is a low-level picnic table in the small enclosed outdoor area and additional seating in the rear outdoor space. A large wooden shop and a large wooden playhouse for children to play in are provided in the large outdoor area.</p> <p>(b) There is an adequate rest area with soft seating, cushions and a rug available in the service for children to rest and relax in if they choose to during the sessions.</p> <p>(3) There are two outdoor areas accessible to the children in the service. An enclosed outdoor area to the side of the service is to be accessed using the main entrance door at the front of the building. This area has a wooden gate with a securing mechanism positioned out of the reach of children. This outdoor space has areas with ground cover of pebbles and cement including a cement cycle path for ride on toys. A shelter has been built in the space to provide cover allowing the area to be used in inclement weather.</p> <p>A second outdoor area to the rear of the premises has grass ground cover and a patio area with paving. This outdoor area has a fence in place to prevent children accessing a stream at the rear of the premises. The entrance gate to the outdoor space is to be secured by the staff once all children have arrived at the service and to remain secured will the service is in progress.</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 requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that healthy snacks in line with the service’s healthy eating policy are to be provided from home for the children with information provided to parents/guardians when the children commence in the service. The registered provider advised the inspector that drinking water is to be always available to the children in the service.
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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:

The requirement has been met.

General Safety

- The entrance doors have securing mechanisms in place to prevent people from entering without authorisation. The entrance gate to the premises at the front of the building is to be secured by the staff once all children have arrived at the service. There are securing mechanisms on the window to restrict children from leaving the building.
- Cleaning products are stored on high shelving in the hallway to the outdoor area and are to be inaccessible to children.
- The emergency exit routes are free from obstruction.
- The toys and play equipment are age-appropriate, clean and in satisfactory condition.
- A red pull cord in the children’s sanitary area has been secured out of reach of the children.
- There are safe storage areas for medication if required in high cupboards in the hallway leading to the outdoor area.
- The radiators in the playroom have covers in place.
- Storage systems for toys have broad stable bases.

Infection control:

- A refrigerator is provided for the storage of perishable food items.
- Aprons and gloves are provided for use as needed.
- Electronic cleaning schedules and checklists are in place for appropriate areas in the service.
- A supply of drinking water is available in the service.
- Foot pedal operated bins are provided in the playrooms and sanitary units for the disposal of general waste.

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:

- The requirement has been met.
- (1) Evidence of the completion of first aid training (FAR) for children was available for one staff member in the service who is to be present during service operation with an expiry date of 16 August 2025.
- (2)
- (a) There is a suitably labelled equipped first aid box conspicuously stored on shelving in the playroom.
- (b) The first aid equipment is proposed to be always available to children attending the 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 firefighting 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) Copies of the templates for the electronic recording of all monthly fire drills to take place on the premises are available in the service.
- (b) Records of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke/fire alarm systems in the service were available for inspection with the last dates of maintenance recorded as the 30 September 2022 and 20 March 2023 .
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire is displayed beside the entrance door to the playroom.

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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:

Evidence of a certificate of insurance for 2 sessions with up to 22 children in the sessions with an expiry date of 27 March 2024 has been submitted by the registered provider to the registration office.

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 service is in a designated section of a purpose-built masonry building with a pitched roof that was purpose built for the provision of childcare. The area has been recently extended to accommodate additional children.

(b) The gates in the outdoor areas are securable to allow staff members to control access and exit. The main entrance door to the service is securable to prevent unauthorised access to the building and children from leaving without authorisation.

(c) Lighting:

There is both natural light from windows and artificial lighting provided in the premises which is adequate and suitable for the provision of a childcare service. The light fittings in the extended playroom and the sanitary areas are encased with protective covers.

Heating:

The heating is provided by an oil fuel central heating system with radiators fitted in the playroom and sanitary unit. The air temperatures in the playroom were found to be 21.6°C and 20.2°C in the sanitary unit during the inspection.

Ventilation:

There are openable windows in the playroom and children’s sanitary area to allow ventilation of the spaces.

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	<p>There are mechanical ventilation systems in the children’s sanitary units and the adult sanitary unit.</p> <p>(d) There are electronic cleaning schedules and cleaning recording templates in place for all areas of the service. The playroom and new children’s sanitary unit has been freshly painted.</p> <p>(e) A new children’s sanitary unit has been added off the playroom with two toilets and two wash handbasins. An adult sanitary unit with a toilet and wash hand basin is provided. Warm water recorded below 43°C, liquid soap, paper towels and foot pedal bins are provided in the sanitary units for handwashing and drying purposes.</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.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) There is adequate clear floor space measuring 46 square metres in the proposed newly extended playroom to accommodate 22 children attending sessional services.</p> <p>(3) The minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear space per child is available in the proposed newly extended playroom for the proposed 22 children to attend sessional services.</p>
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