

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO113		
Name of Service:	Susans Little Scholars Montessori		
Address of Service:	Ballindine Community Centre, Ballindine, Co. Mayo		
Eircode:	F12D3T9		
Name of Registered Provider:	Susan Concannon		
Service type:	Part-time		
Date(s) of Inspection:	21st June 2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM -
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, 2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.		
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Gallagher		
Title:	Early Years Inspector		

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).

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

Description of service

This service is located in the village of Ballindine on the Mayo/Galway border. The service is registered to provide a sessional and part-time service to children aged between 2 years and 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 14:00 hours. The service comprises of a playroom, a reception room and sanitary accommodation on the ground floor of the community centre. There is an outdoor play area for the service to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are three adults employed in the service including the registered provider who is actively involved in the day to day running of the service.

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/ safety/ premises and facilities*. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 23, 25, 26, 27, and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

(2)
The registered provider confirmed with the inspector that no additional staff had commenced in the service since the most recent inspection on the 19 May 2021.

Part19III – 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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a childminding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1)

Findings demonstrated that an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children attending the pre-school service. There was a total of 3 adults working directly with 17 children in one playroom during the morning of the inspection. There was no part-time service on the day of inspection as the service was closing for the academic year, however a sample review of roster/ attendance records indicated that a sufficient number of adults were assigned to work with the children on other days.

(2)

The minimum required ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service. A sessional service for children aged 2- 6 years was provided. An adult child ratio of 1:11 was required. There were 3 adults caring for 17 children on the day of inspection.

(8)

At least two adults were present at all times in the service as found on the day and as indicated in the attendance records which were reviewed.

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.

Compliance Information

The following measures were in place in the service to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending:

General Safety:

The floor coverings throughout the service were observed to be maintained in a good condition.

There were no trailing cables or leads observed.

Cleaning products were securely stored on the premises and was inaccessible to children attending the service.

The toys and play equipment were non-toxic and in satisfactory condition.

The entrance door was secured at all times throughout the inspection.

Infection Control:

Foot operated pedal bins were observed in the playroom and sanitary areas.

Warm running water and liquid soap was available at all wash hand basins throughout the service.

Childrens lunches were refrigerated.

Fire Safety:

All exit routes were observed to be unobstructed for the duration of the inspection.

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*

Compliance Information

- (1) There was documentary evidence of training in First Aid for children available for 3 adults working in the service.
- (2) (a) The first aid box was stored on the lobby wall out of reach of children.
- (b) The first aid box was supplied with sufficient resources and available at all times in 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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
 - (a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on the 9 November 2022.
- (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were not displayed in the service on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) The record available pertaining to the servicing of the smoke detection and alarm system was dated 17 December 2020.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The smoke detection and fire alarm system has now been serviced. In future the manager will ensure that the fire alarm system is serviced as per manufactures guidelines.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the record of the servicing of the smoke detection and alarm system dated 26 June 2023.

Summary Comment

The actions taken together with the evidence submitted has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate and deemed to have addressed the non-compliance found on the day of inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27- Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The children were observed to be supervised predominantly by sight, by the staff members at all times during the inspection. Children when out of view of the staff whilst using the toilet were within close proximity if assistance was needed to be provided.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28-Insurance

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

Non-Compliance Information

There was insurance cover for twenty-five children attending the service on a part-time basis including an additional session with an expiry date of the 27 March 2024.