

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015TY133
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Montessori Naionra
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Butlers Charteris Hall, Church St, Cahir, Tipperary.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	E21 FA33
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Catherine Lynch
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/06/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	25	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Tipperary.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Cullen
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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## Description of service

The service was established in 2014 to provide care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years old. A sessional service is offered through the Irish language, Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 12.00pm and 12.30pm to 3.30pm over 38 weeks of the year. The premises is a single storey, detached heritage building that was purpose converted for use as an early years service. The service consists of the activity room, sanitary accommodation area and outdoor play area.

## Staffing

There were three staff members working directly with children on the day of inspection, which included the registered provider. Staff members held qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care at Level 5, 6, and 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. A commitment to continuous professional development was evident. One staff member is working toward a Level 7 while another is due to commencement of the Leadership for Inclusion programme.

## 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 and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 16, 19 and 27; however, on inspection, additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under Regulation 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9, 10, 11, 16, 19, 23 and 27; As a result, the scope of the inspection included time spent in the indoor and outdoor environments.

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 registered provider, 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

Files for four staff members were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b) Two validated references were available for each staff member from either a past employer, or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for each staff member.

(d) Police vetting was available for a staff member had lived outside the state for a period over 6 months.

(4) A certificate of qualification was available on file demonstrating that each of the staff members held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

There were written policies, procedures and statements, as specified in Schedule 5, available for the service. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the following: the statement of purpose and function, policy on managing behaviour in the service, policy on fire safety, policy on inclusion and policy on complaints. These policies and procedures were appropriate and specific to the setting.

### 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.*

*(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

(3) The adult to child ratios were maintained from 10.45am to 12.00pm. There were 25 children aged 2 to 6 years being cared for by 3 staff.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1) (3) During the morning the adult to child ratios were compromised from the time of the inspector's arrival at 9.40am until 10.45am. There were 2 staff members supervising 25 children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The adult to child ratio for this age range is 1 adult to 11 children, 3 staff members were required.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

## Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff roster has been reviewed at a staff meeting in follow up to the inspection by Tusla. We have concluded that either the manager or deputy manager will ensure that adult child ratios are adhered to at all times for each session. The staff roster will be checked on a daily basis by Deputy Manager/Manager. This action will be monitored and implemented daily.

## Supporting documentation submitted

Policy on supervision of children indoors and outdoors.

## Summary Comment

All evidence submitted meets the requirements Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

*(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*

*(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*

*(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

## Compliance Information

(1)(h)(j)(k) The registered provider ensured that all relevant information was accessible and available for inspection by authorised persons. Records of attendance, administration of medication and any accident or incident records were maintained as required.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

*(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*

*(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and*

#### Compliance Information

The wellbeing and belonging of children were fostered through supportive and meaningful relationships with staff members in the service. Children and staff were observed to interact positively and with mutual respect. Staff members engaged in conversation with and listened attentively to children as they spoke. The children were observed discussing the life cycle of the butterfly, a project which they had been working on. They knowledgeably spoke about the caterpillar, cocoon and butterflies which they were observing develop in the butterfly growing habitat in their classroom. On the day of inspection, they released some of the butterflies during outdoor play.

Strategies were in place to support children transition from one activity to the next. For example, from free play to snack time and from indoors to outdoors, verbal instructions were given, and transition songs were sung in Irish by children and staff. A helper system was observed in use as children retrieved lunches from the refrigerator for morning snack.

The transition from preschool to primary school was supported in the service. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment's Mo Scéal transition document had been completed by the service, in consultation with parent and guardians. On the morning of inspection, the registered provider was meeting with the local primary school to share information and support the transition of children in the service from preschool to primary school.

Preparations were underway for the end of year graduation to celebrate this transition. On the morning of inspection, a photographer was onsite to take graduation photographs.

The service was implementing an inclusion policy and this was evident in their practices during the inspection. The environment is inclusive and representative of the children attending the service, with images of the children and their families displayed. Adjustments to the learning environment and appropriate teaching strategies were used to support the learning and development of the Irish language for children attending the service.

## 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

On arrival at the service the inspector entered the premises unobstructed. Both the external and internal doors were unsecured. This posed a potential risk of children exiting the premises unsupervised or of unauthorised persons gaining access to the service. It is acknowledged that the internal door was secured after the inspector's arrival.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

All children are welcomed at the door and their presence marked in the daily register. The deputy manager will remain on duty by the door throughout the arrival and departure period daily until all parents have left the premises. The deputy manager will then lock the door and will be responsible for checking that the premises continues to be secure throughout each session.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

Policies on supervision of children and missing child.

#### Summary Comment

All evidence submitted meets the requirements Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

## 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

There was appropriate supervision of children for the duration of the inspection. The layout of the early years room, sanitary accommodation and outdoor area allowed for clear lines of sight of the children. Staff supported children to toilet independently and were within hearing distance of children. Staff sat with children during snack ensuring appropriate supervision while food was being consumed.