

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015WD086

Name of Service The Little School of Montessori

Address of Service: 4 Clonea Road, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
X35 C597

Email Address: catrionacullinan@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Catriona Cullinan

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

Proposed change: Change in service type from Sessional to Part-Time
Change in hours from 08:45- 12:15 to 09:00 – 14:00

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in service type from Sessional to Part-Time
Change in hours from 08:45- 12:15 to 09:00 – 14:00

Registered change: Change in service type from Sessional to Part-Time
Change in hours from 08:45- 12:15 to 09:00 – 14:00

Date of Inspection:	1	5	0	5	2	0	2	5
----------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Inspection undertaken by: Aileen Bradshaw

Title: Early Years Inspectorate

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Community Care Centre, HSE Buildings, Cork Road,
Waterford

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part-Time Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	6th June 2025

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	Little School of Montessori is a sessional service in Dungarvan. The service is registered for two sessions daily, 8:45 to 12:45 and 12:30 to 15:30 for 10 months of the year. The service cares for up to 22 children aged from 2 to 6 years of age
Premises	The service is in a commercial building with one large pre-school room, an office, a kitchen and sanitary accommodation for staff and children. The outdoor area is at the rear of the building.
Staffing	The registered provider works directly with the children. They employ one additional staff member and there is a relief staff if required.
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</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the children, the registered provider and the staff 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a person who can deputise if required. The registered provider stated that there is one of them on the premises at all times.

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) The registered provider proposes to have 2 staff working directly with the 22 children for up to 3.5 hours and 16 children until 14:00.

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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)(b)

The layout of the room allows children the space and freedom to move around and choose their activity. The room has areas of interest defined with the use of furniture and floor coverings. For example, the room has the following equipment: dress-up clothes, a play kitchen with accessories, a library with a wide variety of books, a sensory tray, a large floor area for construction, and an arts and crafts station.

The tabletop activities were attractively displayed and available to the children on low shelving. Some examples are threading, construction, and connecting materials.

The equipment and toys are stored on low-level shelving and accessible to the children. There are sufficient tables and chairs to accommodate children to sit and eat their snack or work independently with tabletop materials.

The library is situated away from the main play area and is furnished with a large rug and soft chairs. The registered provider explained how this space will be used by the children if they wish to take a break from their play. Additionally, there is a sleep mat available should a child need to rest during the day.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(2)(b)

The care room has direct access to a large, enclosed grassed area at the rear of the building. There is a covered area to allow outdoor play in the rain and provides shade in sunny weather. There are facilities for water and sand play and a pebble pit for digging. There is a solid climbing structure with varying levels of challenge for the children and a wooden playhouse.

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 is met.

The registered provider stated that families provide the children’s food for snack and the children’s lunch during the day. However, the registered provider stated they will provide additional food available for the children’s snack if required.

There is a fridge on site to store any perishable food during the day.

The healthy eating policy described how snack times are a social occasion and also included ideas for healthy snacks and lunches. This policy is included in the parent handbook. The policy has been updated to include information regarding parents supplying food that may require reheating. The registered provider stated that they can facilitate this, and they submitted evidence to demonstrate they have completed additional food safety training, which included the reheating and serving of food.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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 is met.

- The registered provider has an adequate system in place to limit the risk of unauthorised entry or exit from the building.
- There is a cleaning schedule in place, and the cleaning products are stored out of reach of the children.
- There is a low double sink in the care room for hand washing or water play.
- Liquid soap and disposable towels are available at all hand basins.
- The tables and chairs in the care room, which will be used for tabletop activities and mealtimes, are at the appropriate height for the age of children accommodated in the room.
- All cables and flexes are adequately secured to reduce the potential risks to a child.
- Shelving and storage units are stable and secure.
- There is a locked storage room and office which is inaccessible to the children.
- Exit doors were unobstructed during the inspection, and the emergency lighting is mounted over these doors.
- Shelving and storage units are stable and secure.
- The kitchen has a lock on the door and is inaccessible to the children.
- The outdoor is secure with a high fence and locked side gate.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) The two staff members are trained to the First Aid Responder level and are available to the children at all times.
- (2) (a)(b) The First Aid box is stored on an open shelf in the care room.

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 is met.

- (1) (a)(b)
Records of monthly fire drills are available for review by the inspector. The last fire drill was carried out on the 30th of April 2025.
Evidence reviewed demonstrated that the firefighting equipment was serviced on the 29th of January 2025, and the smoke alarms were maintained on the 20th of May 2025.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the entrance hall and the care room. The evacuation meeting point is displayed at the front of 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 service has insurance to cover a maximum of 22 children on a part-time basis. The expiry date on the insurance certificate is the 27th of September 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 registered provider confirmed that they knew of no structural defects and that the building is structurally sound.
- (b) The main entrance door to the service is a doorbell with a lobby before entering the care room. The system in place adequately secures the entrance to the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the premises.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>(c) The care room has roof windows which provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting, which is covered and recessed and is flush with the ceiling. The roof windows could be opened to allow the circulation of fresh air.</p> <p>(d) The care rooms were in a clean condition on the day of inspection. A cleaning schedule is available in the care rooms to ensure regular cleaning of the service.</p> <p>(e) The sanitary area is adjacent to the care room with two toilets and two wash-hand basins. There is a separate staff toilet. Warm water, liquid soap, and disposable paper towels were provided in the sanitary facilities.</p>
--	---

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.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The clear floor space available in the premises for work, play and movement of children attending the service is adequate for the part-time service proposed.</p> <p>(2) The clear floor space available is measured 66.52 square.</p>
-------------------------	--