

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW086
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Name of Service:	Bellevue Montessori
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Address of Service:	Bellevue House, The Grooms House, Delgany, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A63 C8Y9
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Name of Registered Provider:	Valerie Bradshaw
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	20/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Early O'Brien
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	N/A
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Description of service

TÚSLA An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Service ID: TU2015WW086	1 of 9
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Bellevue Montessori is located in a rural area, near the village of Delgany, County Wicklow. The service is registered to care for a maximum of 17 pre-school children aged between 2 and 6 years and is open from Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 12:40 for 38 weeks of the year. The service operates in a room which adjoins the registered provider's home. A covered outdoor area is available to the children, immediately accessible from the care room. Separately there is a large outdoor area available to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There are three adults employed to work directly with the children in the service, and this includes the registered provider. All three adults were present on the day of inspection.

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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child, safety and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(3)(4) - Management and recruitment,

Regulation 11 (1)(2)(8) - Staffing levels,

Regulation 21 – Equipment and Materials,

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink,

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures.

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, staff and children 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,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(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-

- (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*

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(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

(1)

(a) The registered provider is the designated person in charge of the service and there is a named person appointed to deputise as required.

(b) The registered provider was present and in charge of the service when the inspector arrived on the morning of the inspection and was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The inspection focused on the recruitment records for three adults employed in the service. There have been no new staff employed since the last inspection on 17 September 2025. Regulation 9(2)(c) was reviewed in respect of all staff. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults as follows.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were on file and had been obtained for three staff members, demonstrating that the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Non-Compliance Information

(4)

There was no documentary evidence that one staff member held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent. It is acknowledged that this staff member is currently undertaking appropriate certification as stated in the corrective and preventive action following the last inspection on 17 September 2025 and reported on the day of inspection that this should be completed in September 2026.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff member is currently undertaking an approved QQI Level 5 course. In recruiting staff in the future the registered provider will ensure that these adults have a minimum Level 5 qualification in early years.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation confirming enrolment on a Level 5 course.

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Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance and will inform the next inspection.

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.

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)
The correct adult to child ratio was maintained at all times. There were 17 children being supervised by 3 adults on the day of inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

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The tables and chairs provided in the service were suitable for the age and stage of development of the children in each of the care rooms. The three care rooms were set up in a similar style, which were suitable and age appropriate for the children in attendance in each care room.

A sufficient amount of materials for the number of children attending were available on low level shelving and were observed to be easily accessible to the children. Additional resources and equipment were also available on higher level shelving and in cupboards.

The play equipment and materials were observed to be durable and easy to clean.

The equipment available included jigsaws, floor play toys, small world houses and garages with people, cars, tractors and animals provided opportunities for solitary and group play opportunities. Construction toys, and sensory toys were among the large array of materials available in each of the care rooms in addition to mark-making resources such as crayons, markers, paints and glue.

The presence of a family wall display and children's artwork demonstrated a sense of identity and belonging for the children.

The outdoor area and the equipment and materials available provided appropriate learning opportunities for the children based on their age and stage of development. On the day of inspection, the children were playing outdoors and were adequately dressed with warm jackets. They were observed to have autonomy in leading their play choices without the direction of the adults.

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.

Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy in place. Children's snacks were provided from home and perishable items stored in the care room. On the day of inspection, children's lunches consisted of fruit, crackers, sandwiches, cheese, rice cakes and yogurt. Additional snacks of apples and banana were available. Children's drink bottles were available to them throughout the session. Children were supported and encouraged to be independent in opening and closing their individual lunchboxes, bags and bottles. Support was promptly offered to those children who required assistance.

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

General Safety:

- The entrance door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children in the indoor and outdoor areas on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the indoor and outdoor play environments were safe and free from hazards.
- Medication, which is only administered in an emergency, was stored safely and out of the reach of children.
- Storage facilities for hazardous cleaning materials were inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate handwashing for staff and children in the sanitary area adjoining the care room.
- Good hand-washing practices were observed after toileting, before eating and when returning indoors from play.
- Foot pedal bins were available throughout the service for the safe disposal of used hand towels and other waste products.
- Tables were observed by the inspector to be cleaned before and after snack time.

Administration of Medication:

- There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of anti-febrile medication and prescribed medication and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required with prior parental consent.
- Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication if required in an emergency during discussions with the inspector.

Fire Safety:

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- On the day of inspection, all emergency exits were observed to be clearly identifiable and were not obstructed.

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)

There was a record of fire drills with the last recorded fire drill documented as having been carried out on 06 March 2026.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous places within the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

(b)

While it is acknowledged that firefighting equipment records were available demonstrating that this equipment was last serviced on 13 October 2025, there was no current record available for inspection in relation to the maintenance of a fire detection system in the premises. This was non-compliant on the last inspection on 17 September 2025 and the corrective and preventive action submitted by the registered provider failed to prevent the non-compliance from re-occurring.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has availed of the services of an electrical contractor to install a mains powered fire detection system in the service and will maintain servicing of this annually in the future.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence of the invoice for installation of the fire detection system has been submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance and will inform the next inspection.