

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WW086		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bellevue Montessori		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Bellevue House, The Grooms House, Delgany, Co. Wicklow		
<b>Eircode:</b>	A63 C8Y9		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Valerie Bradshaw		
<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	25/09/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	12	PM 7
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown. Co. Dublin.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Mona Condon		
<b>Title:</b>	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

1. Pursuant to Part VI, Regulation 23, the Agency is supplied (no later than December 31st, 2023) with the information required to provide assurance that the service is compliant with the state required fire safety and building control measures.
  2. In the interim and without delay you put in place a robust safety plan to ensure that the current absence of fire safety confirmation poses no risk to children who attend your service. This plan must be in written format and available for inspection.
- This condition was removed in Oct 2023.

### Description of service

This service is located in a rural area, near the village of Delgany, County Wicklow. There were 12 children present on the day of inspection. 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 09.00am and 12.40pm 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 at the side of the building. Separately there is a large outdoor area available on the premises.

### Staffing

There are a total of three adults employed by the service. On inspection two adults were present.

### 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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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.

## Additional Information

At the time of inspection this service has a condition attached to its registration. The proprietor has not provided confirmation to the agency that the premises is fire safe pursuant to Part VI, Regulation 23 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services ) Regulations 2016. This issue was identified during the renewal of registration process and is currently being addressed by the early years inspectorate registration enforcement office.

## Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff member 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-

- (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

(1)(a)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge of operating the service and another adult was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The registered provider was on the premises at the time of arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

A total of three staff files were reviewed.

(a) & (b)

Six written and validated references were available for three adults.

(c)

The required Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the three adults employed.

- (d)  
Not applicable as no adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months as an adult.
- (4) Two adults employed held major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at National Framework for Qualifications.

### Non-Compliance Information

(4) There was insufficient evidence to confirm that one staff member held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at National Framework for Qualifications.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

Email sent to establish if this staff member has the required qualification to work in an early years setting .

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of email sent to the DCEDIY from the Registered Provider on 15/11/23.

### Summary Comment

This non-compliance remains outstanding as at this time there is no evidence to confirm that the staff member held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at National Framework for Qualifications or the equivalent. This will be reviewed on 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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding 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) Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children.

(2) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection. On inspection there were two adults providing direct care to twelve pre-school children.

(8)(a) There were more than two adults present in the premises throughout the inspection and the staff roster confirmed there are at least two adults present at all times.

### 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-*

*(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The Inspector observed that staff were attentive to the personal care of the children. Staff assisted children in the bathroom used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children.

Staff sat with the children when eating. They provided them with help when needed whilst supporting their independence.

All children were given the opportunity to play outdoors. The children were taken outdoors to “the Paddock” where they were given the opportunity to avail of a large secure grassy area. The children were free to explore their environment in a safe space which facilitated free movement of children outdoors. Staff interacted with the children encouraging turn-taking while on swings, slides and in a hammock.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed them by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. The staff provided the children with comfort when they became upset – giving clear explanations to them and talking to them in soft tones.

Transitions were handled well by staff with notice given prior to change and children actively helping to facilitate the change for example helping to tidy up, assisting others with finding shoes/boots and coats.

## 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 perimeter of the large outdoor play area was fenced. The main entrance to the premises was secured.
- All cleaning products were stored out of the reach of children.
- At collection time the service had a system in place to ensure that children who were staying a little later were identified and would not leave the service accidentally at this time.

##### Infection Control:

- There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels available in the sanitary area.
- Table cleaning was observed before snack time.
- Hand washing by the adult and children was observed after using the toilet and before lunch.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. Written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child.
- Temperature reducing medication was available, in date and stored safely.

##### Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed.

##### Outing:

- The registered provider stated that no outings are undertaken from the service at present.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) One adult was trained in First Aid Response and was immediately available to the pre-school children. Evidence was available to confirm that a second staff member had completed training in First Aid Response and is awaiting her certificate.

(2)

(a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children

### 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

Children were supervised by two staff members at all times. While indoors and outdoors, during the inspection.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2024. The insurance providers cover for up to 20 children attending for part time care