

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015WW116

**Name of Service:** Enniskerry Montessori and Afterschool

**Address of Service:** Cois Coillte, Church Road, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow

**Eircode:** A98 TW10

**Name of Registered Provider:** Aisling Malone

**Service type:** Sessional

**Date(s) of Inspection:** 27/02/2024

|                                   |    |    |    |     |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 18 | PM | N/A |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|

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| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Loughlinstown Health Centre,<br>Loughlinstown Drive,<br>Loughlinstown,<br>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).

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Conditions if applicable</b> | Not applicable |
|---------------------------------|----------------|

### Description of service

Enniskerry Montessori and Afterschool provides a sessional service to pre-school children currently aged from two and a half years to five years of age and operates from 09:00 to 12:30 daily. It is located in Enniskerry village and is in the grounds of the Registered Providers home. The service comprises of one care room, an office and a sanitary area. A large, enclosed garden area at the rear of the pre-school is available daily to the pre-school children attending.

### Staffing

There are three staff employed. All staff members hold an Early Childhood Care & Education qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the Registered Provider on 28/02/2024 as unauthorised access was possible into the outdoor area and emergency medication which was required for one child was not taken into the garden while the children were outdoors. Their response was received on 29/02/2024 and was accepted.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider, person in charge, staff member 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)

Following a discussion with the person in charge it was confirmed that three new members of staff were employed in the service since the last inspection on 12/04/2021. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults as follows:

(a)(b) Six validated references were available.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for three staff members and for the Registered Provider. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable as no staff member who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

Documentary evidence was available to confirm that all staff members had 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.

### 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

- (1) At all times during the inspection an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were eighteen children attending the service being supervised by two adults on the day of inspection.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

- (1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*
- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
  - (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
  - (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
  - (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
  - (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
  - (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
  - (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
  - (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
  - (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-  
(c) an authorised person.*

## Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(i)

Twenty files were examined.

In relation to the files examined, the record required in writing in relation to (a)-(i) above was kept for each child. The children's files were located in a secure place in the service.

(3) (c) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) (a)-(i) was open to inspection on the premises by the inspectors.

## 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

(1)(a)

The care room had defined areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included a home corner, construction toys, dress up, art materials, and a library area beside the rest areas. A selection of materials was observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving provided which enabled children to select and replace items and materials of interest. The inspector observed children moving freely, exploring their environment, playing, and engaging with each other and the adults.

At snack time the adults sat with the children who were given their lunch provided by their parents. The staff assisted the children when needed and encouraged conversation. Plenty of time was given to each child to finish their snack.

Staff attended to children's care needs. were observed to help younger children to clean their noses. The children were supported to use the toilet independently while being supervised by staff. Staff were observed to engage warmly with children in their care encouraging children to partake in activities and taking time to explain and encourage them.

Information was shared with parents at drop off and collection times. In addition, information was sent to parents by email and mobile phone app.

All children spent time outdoors. A range of suitable equipment suitable was available and included a climbing frame and slide, a play kitchen, ride-on toys, sand play, water play and a picnic tables.

### 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 service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

##### **Infection Control:**

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members supervised children's and handwashing routines were well established.

Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues. Written cleaning schedules were on display for the room environment and sanitary area which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

##### **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. The staff members were familiar with required safe practice when administering medication in the service.

### Outing:

The Registered Provider stated that no outings are conducted by the service at this time.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The outdoor area at the rear of the service was not sufficiently secured to prevent unauthorised person gaining access to the outdoor area when children were outdoors.

It is acknowledged that a fence was in place around the perimeter however this fence had been damaged on the right-hand side of the back section causing the height to become lower posing a risk of unauthorised access.

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the Registered Provider on 28/02/2024. Their response was received on 29/02/2024 and was accepted.

2. Emergency medication which was required for one child was not taken into the garden while the children were outdoors. This action was part of the child's agreed care plan. This could delay treatment in the event of an emergency posing a risk to the child.

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the Registered Provider on 28/02/2024. Their response was received on 29/02/2024 and was accepted.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. All highlighted fencing issues have been rectified by an outside contractor on the 22/03/2024. The new fencing has been installed covering the full perimeter of the south/west side of the outdoor play area to ensure no new additional gaps appear.

Enniskerry Montessori will commit to more regular perimeter inspection of all related fencing areas. This will involve a daily routine check by staff but also a more comprehensive review each month by owner & manager. Where any damage or gaps occur, these fixes will be carried out as a matter of urgency either by our own staff or by an outside fencing company.

2. Going forward, Enniskerry Montessori will keep all children's critical emergency medication in our portable "First Aid" bag which will be kept with our locked medical box when in the classroom. More importantly, this means emergency medication will always be with the staff and children when moving to the outdoor play area.

There is now a new dedicated location for the first aid bag at the entrance of the garden play area which is easily accessible to staff but not to the children. We will ensure a checklist is used before leaving the classroom to the garden to ensure that emergency medication will be at hand when in the garden.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Photographic evidence submitted:

1. New perimeter fencing.
2. New location for the first aid kit, where emergency medication will be stored while children are in the outdoor area.

### Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances which were identified on inspection in relation to in relation to Regulation 23.

### 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

During the inspection the children attending were supervised by the staff members at all times while in the indoor and outdoor areas.

### 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 27th of March 2024. The insurance provides cover for up to 22 children attending for sessional care