

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015WW130

Name of Service: Treasures Montessori Preschool

Address of Service: 27 Seacliff, Dunbur Road Lower, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow

Eircode: A67 EK53

Name of Registered Provider: Ida Lane

Service type: Sessional

Date of Inspection: 09/11/2023

No of pre-school children:	AM	5	PM	No.

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	Mona Condon
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 Not applicable

Description of service

Treasures Montessori is a sessional service which provides care and education for children aged between 2 years and 6 years. The registered provider operates the service for 38 weeks of the year Monday to Friday 9.40am to 12.40pm. The service operates from the registered provider's home. The registered provider uses the dining room area, hallway and sitting room as spaces to provide care and education to a maximum of six pre-school children. Sanitary accommodation is provided. The outdoor area is located at the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs one staff member to assist on a daily basis.

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.

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

(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

Two adults are employed.

(2)(a)(b)

Four written and validated past employer references were available for two adults.

(c)

The required Garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of the two adults employed.

(d)

Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months as an adult.

(4)

The two adults employed held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at National Framework for Qualifications.

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)
Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (3)
The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were two adults present with five pre-school children 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)

Five 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.

Each child's file was 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-

(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)

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. One child who was upset at a number of times during the session was comforted by staff and they tried to settle her to play/read and interact with the other children.

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

Children were engaged in activities during the session and played alone, in pairs and in small groups, while being supervised and guided as needed by the staff present. Staff interacted with the children encouraging turn-taking, sharing, and giving them an opportunity to try equipment/toys safely. Transitions from one activity to the next were observed and children were given notice so that each change took place smoothly with the children assisting.

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

The children had access to outdoor play in a patio area and garden. This was divided into several interest areas including sand play, water play, construction, a low-level slide, and transport toys.

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 outdoor play area was secured by high walls and gates. The main entrance to the premises was secured.
- All cleaning products were stored out of the reach of children.
- Fire exits were unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- Pedal operated bins were available for the safe disposal of used paper towels in the sanitary areas and in the care room.
- Table cleaning was observed before snack time.
- Hand washing by the adult and children was observed after using the toilet and before lunch. Liquid soap and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.

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.

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)

Two adults were trained in First Aid Response and immediately available to the pre-school children.

(2)

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

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

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 March 2024. The insurance provides cover for up to 6 children attending on a sessional basis.