

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW156
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Name of Service:	Redcross Montessori Pre-school
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Address of Service:	Redcross Community Centre, Redcross, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A67 TF70
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Name of Registered Provider:	Amanda Jordan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	No.	PM	No.
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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
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Description of service

This Sessional service operates in an adapted church hall which is in the village of Redcross, County Wicklow. There were 17 children present on the day of inspection. The service is open from Monday to Friday and is registered to provide care and education to a maximum of 22 children aged between two years and six years. The service comprises of an entrance hallway, one care room and a sanitary area. An extensive outdoor area is available to the children at the front, side and rear of the building.

Staffing

There are three staff employed one of whom is the registered provider.

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, safety and premises and facilities. 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 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) No new adult was employed since the last inspection. The files for the three adults employed were reviewed.
- (a)(b) There were two written and validated references available for three adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for three adults. 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 there was no evidence that an adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months as an adult.
- (4)
The three 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) There were three adults present working directly with seventeen pre-school children throughout the period of the inspection.
- (3) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the morning.

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)

Ten files were examined.

The records 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

(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)(a)

Basic Needs of Infants and Children

- Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They were observed encouraging the child's independence and giving assistance with tasks if required.
- A healthy snack in line with the healthy eating policy of the service were enjoyed by the children on the day of inspection. Staff sat with children during mealtime and provided assistance to some children as required. Drinking water was provided with the meals and freely available in the pre-school room.
- The children had access to the outdoor area daily where there were three areas to play which included a covered area and a poly-tunnel area. A range of age-appropriate toys and equipment was available.

Supporting Relationships around Children

- There was evidence that the service worked in partnership with parents. The staff communicate information to parents daily at drop off and collection times.

Physical and Material Environment

- The play resources available to the children were accessible, organised and stored on low level shelving which allowed the children to select and replace items and materials of interest.
- Equipment included Montessori equipment, construction, home corner, toy animals, puzzles and a library.
- There was evidence of the children's artwork on display in the room.

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 external doors were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.
- Documentary evidence was available that fire drills were being carried out on a monthly basis as per best practice guidelines.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelving and were inaccessible to the pre-school children.

Infection Control:

- Children were encouraged to wash their hands regularly including before lunch and after using the toilet. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed and in accordance with the services infection control policies and procedures. Pedal operated bins were available in the sanitary areas and in the care room.
- The premises play equipment, and materials were 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. Medication was stored safely. Staff were aware of the procedure to be undertaken should medication be required.

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 staff members, who were trained in first aid response (FAR), were available to the children on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible position.
- (b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

Non-compliance Information

- (c)
- The premises was not adequately heated. The pre-school room temperature was between 16.5 °C and 17 °C during the morning of the inspection, while the sanitary area temperature was between 16.5 °C and 16.8 °C. There was no method available to increase this temperature. The recommended temperature for the pre-school is between 18°C – 22°C.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A new comprehensive upgrade of the preschool heating system is being carried out. The installation of four ATC 2.4Kw High Temp Radiant Heaters in the pre-school room, along with the instalment of a 500W Electric Thermal radiator for the sanitary room. This installation will completely address the necessary level of heating required, which will also be energy efficient. This upgrade will be actioned as soon as the electrician can schedule same, but no later than end of August 2026.

Two additional blow heaters are being used as necessary to increase the temperature to an acceptable level (18-22degree) which is verified by a thermometer in the preschool. Following the upgrade the new heating system will be monitored by a thermometer in the classroom & sanitary area to ensure full compliance.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of quotation outlining the detail for the planned upgrade of the heating system.

Summary Comment

It is acknowledged that the work is planned to address the non-compliance as stated above. However, to date this non-compliance has not been addressed.

This non-compliance will be reviewed on next inspection.