

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015WW173

Name of service: Orahova Montessori School

Address of service: Shoreline Leisure Centre,
Mill Road,
Greystones
Co. Wicklow

Name of registered provider: Rita Byrne

Type of service registered:	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date of Inspection: 19/09/2022

Number of pre-school children present:	AM	10	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Loughlinstown Health Centre,
Loughlinstown Drive,
Loughlinstown,
Co. Dublin.

Inspection undertaken by: M 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	<p>This Sessional service operates in two rooms located on the first floor of a leisure centre which has been adapted for use as a pre-school. It is in the village of Greystones, County Wicklow. There were 10 children present on the day of inspection. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 09.05am and 12.35pm hours for 38 weeks of the year and currently provides care and education to children aged between two years and eight months to five years of age. The service has access outdoor area at the rear of the premises.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are three adults employed who work directly with the children which includes the registered provider.</p>
Methodology	<p>Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous inspection history • Any information received in relation to the service <p>Findings on inspection are based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of Governance/ Health, Welfare and Development of Child/ Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.</p> <p>The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff members 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*
 - (c) *there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*
- (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 service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the Inspectors and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a)&(b) There were two written and validated references from previous employers available for the one new staff member.
 - (c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for one new staff member.
 - (d) Not applicable as there was no evidence that the staff member had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) The three adults present with the pre-school children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of 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.

Compliance information

(1)

Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children. There were 10 pre-school children who were cared for by 3 adults.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

*(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis
(full name, time of arrival and departure).*

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance information

(1)

(h) A record was available of each child's attendance with their time of arrival and departure stated.

(j) A record was available regarding parental consent for the administration of medication in each child's registration form. A method to record medication administration was in place.

(k)

A detailed written record of accidents/incidents which occurred to a pre-school child was available. The individual record was signed by the relevant staff present at the time of the accident/incident and the parent of the child.

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,

Compliance information

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured that each child's learning, development and wellbeing was facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school by:

Basic Needs of Infants & Children

The children were supported by the staff members to be self-caring, suitable for their age and stage of development including; hand washing, using the toilet, and caring for their belongings. Assistance was given as necessary.

The service had a healthy eating policy and parents were asked to provide healthy snacks. Drinking water was freely available from a low-level table within the room. The staff members sat with the children at snack time, assisting them as needed and conversation was observed to be educational and fun.

Children's behaviour was managed in a positive way with an emphasis on praise and encouragement. Children were observed enjoying freedom of movement within the room. Upon arrival children had an opportunity for outdoor play.

A comfortable rest area was available to the children if they wished to take a break from activities.

Supporting Relationships around Children:

There was evidence that the service worked in partnership with parents. It was observed that staff were kind and patient with the children. Staff members kept contact with parents by phone if needed and used an electronic app to give information regarding the activities of their individual child and the group. All children attending on the day of the inspection were observed to be busy and engaged in activities.

Physical and Material Environment:

There are two care rooms in the service called the Montessori room and the playroom. Play resources and Montessori equipment 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.

There was an adequate amount of age-appropriate furniture and equipment available in the rooms. Equipment included construction, transport toys, a workshop, a toy kitchen, toy animals, puzzles and a library. The children's artwork on display in the room.

A secure outdoor area was available at the rear of the premises. Play equipment available include bikes, tractors, playhouse, low level slides, sand play and a planting area.

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	<p>General Safety: The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed. There was safe storage of cleaning agents and equipment for use by staff. Toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection was safe and in good working order.</p> <p>Infection Control: Children were encouraged to wash their hands regularly including before lunch and after toileting. Effective hand hygiene practices and good supervision were observed and in accordance with the services infection control policies and procedures. The tables were cleaned prior to snack time. Pedal bins were in place within the rooms and in the sanitary area.</p> <p>Administration of Medication: A comprehensive administration of medication policy was available. A method was available to record parental consent and the administration of medication to a child.</p> <p>Outings: Outings do not take place from the service.</p>
Non-compliance information	<p>General safety: 1.It was observed by the inspector and staff member that two children had whole grapes for their snack. This is a choking hazard. The staff member did not take the grapes to cut them up until prompted to do so by the inspector.</p> <p>Infection Control: 2.The fridge in the Montessori room used for the storage of the children’s lunches required cleaning with staining and food debris visible in places. 3.The paper towel used in the room for the drying of children’s hands was not placed in the dispenser. This leads to over-handing of the roll increasing the risk of cross infection. 4.In the garden area of the pre-school portable toilets which were not connected to running water were provided for use by the pre-school children and staff. This is an infection control risk.</p>
Corrective & preventive action submitted by the registered provider	<p><u>General Safety</u> <u>1.</u> Corrective Action Letter sent to parents advising that grapes are a choking hazard. Grapes are not to be included in children’s lunchboxes.</p>

	<p>Preventive Action A letter has been sent to parents and staff are now vigilant and if grapes are included, they will remove them (letter attached).</p> <p>2. Corrective Action Fridge will be wiped out twice each day and checked regularly.</p> <p>Preventive Action Fridge cleaning added to daily check list (see attached).</p> <p>3. Corrective Action Blue roll when replaced will be installed in holder immediately.</p> <p>Preventive Action Blue roll in holder added to daily check list. (see attached).</p> <p>4. Corrective action At present the toilets are serviced every two weeks we will increase this to a weekly service. We clean twice daily and check after each use.</p> <p>Preventive Action Toilet servicing increased to weekly.</p> <p><u>Supporting documentation submitted</u> Copies of letter and documents.</p>
Summary comment	<p>The corrective and preventive actions and the evidence received have been considered by the inspectorate. The non-compliances identified on inspection numbering 1,2 and 3 have been addressed.</p> <p>The non-compliance in relation to point number 4 of this regulation has not been addressed by the Registered Provider and therefore remains outstanding.</p>

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	<p>(1) Two adults trained in first aid for children were present and immediately available to the pre-school children.</p> <p>(2) (a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position on the main corridor of the service. (b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service.</p>
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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) Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service; the last recorded fire drill took place on the 5th of September 2022.
 - (b) Evidence was available to confirm that the fire-fighting equipment was last serviced in April 2022 and smoke alarm was serviced in May 2022.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed conspicuously in the rooms.

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 2023. The insurance provides cover for up to 33 children.