

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW204		
Name of Service:	Dee's Montessori Pre-school		
Address of Service:	28 St. Laurence's Park, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow		
Eircode:	A67 K738		
Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Dunne		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	10/02/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, Drive, Loughlinstown, County 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	NA
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Description of service

Dees Montessori is a privately operated sessional service which is registered to care for a maximum of 22 pre-school children. The service provides care and education to children currently aged between 2 years and 6 months and 5 years of age and operated from 09:30 to 12:30 daily. The service operates from a purpose-built premises located on the grounds of the registered provider's home located in a residential estate in Arklow town, County Wicklow. There is one care room with an adjoining sanitary area. The outdoor area is located at the side and rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider and one staff member work directly with the children.

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 inspections 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.

art 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 Inspection findings are 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 is the designated person in charge and also has 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 was on the premises.

(2)

There were two adults present on inspection.

(a)(b) Four written and validated references were available for two adults.

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

(d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had been employed outside the state for a period of more than six months as an adult.

(4) (4) Evidence was available to confirm that both the registered provider and staff member held at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualification Framework.

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.

particular reference number 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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were two 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)

Eleven 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 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 main entrance door to the service was secure. With the exception of the non-compliances below the service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor and outdoor environment.

Infection Control:

The staff members supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. Sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels for handwashing. 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. Medicine was safely stored.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. At snack time two of the children had whole grapes in their lunch boxes which is a potential choking hazard. The grapes were not seen by staff members and cut up until asked to do so by the Inspector.
2. A variety of cleaning agents were accessible to a child in a press under the sink in the care room. This posed a risk to a child were they to access the press unsupervised.
3. The fire alarm in the service was not serviced annually as required.

Infection Control:

4. The foot operated pedal bin located in the sanitary area was broken causing over-handling of the bin posing a risk of cross infection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A text has been sent to parents to remind them to cut the grapes in half from stem down. A new policy has been adopted to ensure that all lunches are visually checked daily by staff.
2. The press has been locked, and the key is hung on a designated hook. Reminded staff to lock and remove the key after each use. Written procedures for locking and removing the key to safe hook. This new procedure has been shared with staff.
3. The fire alarm has been serviced. A written reminder has been added to the fire drill record so as to ensure that going forward it will be carried out annually.
4. A new pedal bin is now in place in the sanitary area. The checking of the pedal bin has been added to the written cleaning schedule.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of new policies. Copy of text sent to parents.

Photographic evidence of new hook for the key.

Copy of fire alarm cert. Copy of written record which has been added to the fire drill record.

Photographic evidence of new bin. Copy of updated cleaning schedule.

Summary Comment

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

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) The two adults present had completed Pre-hospital emergency care council (PHECC) training which expired in October 2024.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position within the service.

(b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service.

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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service.

(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarm which were last serviced in January 2024 and March 2022 respectively.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the rooms. The fire assembly point was located at the front of the building.

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

The children present were supervised at all times during the session.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had ensured that the Early Years' service was adequately insured to cover up to 22 children attending on a sessional basis.

The service was insured from 28/11/2024 to 27/11/2025.