

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX010
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Ballymurn Montessori Ltd.
-------------------------	---------------------------

Address of Service:	Ballynabrigidane, Ballymurn, Enniscorthy, Wexford.
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	Y21 KT32
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Adelia Lamba
-------------------------------------	--------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	22/05/2023
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM	NA
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital Ferrybank Wexford
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan
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

Ballymurn Montessori Ltd. is a privately operated childcare service located in the rural village of Ballymurn, in county Wexford. The service cares for children aged 2 to 6 years of age and operates for 43 weeks a year. The service offers a Montessori based curriculum. The service operates from a building to the side of the provider's home and consists of three playrooms, sanitary accommodation, a kitchen and an office. Two of the playrooms were designated for use by the early years children. Two large outdoor garden play areas were available to the front and rear of the property.

Staffing

There were three staff present on the day of inspection who were working directly with the children. The registered provider is the designated person in charge daily on the premises. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Montessori Education.

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/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, 25, 26 and 28.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9, 11, 19, 23, 25, 26 and 28. As a result, the scope of the inspection was concluded in the two of the early years room and in the outdoor area.

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

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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)(b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. There was a second named staff available to deputise as required.

The files for four staff members were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

There were two validated references available on file for each staff member.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available on file in the service for each staff member.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were available on file for staff who had lived outside of the state for a period of more than six consecutive months.

(4)

Certificates of qualification for each staff member working directly with the early years children were available on file.

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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1)
Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service.

(2)
During the morning there were 24 children being directly cared for by 3 staff, ensuring there were adequate staff available to work with the children and to maintain staff/child ratios at all times.

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 following observations and discussions with staff reflect the children's experience within the service focusing on the area of supporting relationships on the day of inspection:

The staff and children sat together for their morning snack. The staff helped the children with handwashing, and then they all sat together to eat. The children and staff chatted about what they wanted to do after snack time and sharing their news.

The playrooms were well-resourced with materials and equipment to reflect the Montessori curriculum. Children were encouraged to choose what Montessori work they wanted to engage with from the low-level shelves around the room. Circle time provided children with the opportunity to share their news, with the children helping one child to pick names for her new chicks at home. The staff encouraged the children to actively participate in tidy up between their activities. The daily routine was familiar to the children, with transitions between activities calm and relaxed. The atmosphere during the morning was calm and the interactions between the staff and children were kind, positive and encouraging.

Children who wore nappies were changed when required. Children who were independent used the toilet independently and were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards. The children had access to two large outdoor play areas, one to the rear of the Montessori and one to the front. Both areas were large and provided opportunities for free and imaginative play in natural environments. The staff reiterated simple rules and boundaries for outdoor play with the children while getting ready to go outside. The area had swings, slides, bridges pathways, a polly tunnel, planting and digging areas, water play, a kitchen, a birds nest, playhouses, wigwams, reading and rest areas, walkways and seating areas.

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:

Access to the service was appropriately secured, ensuring restricted access to unauthorised persons. Cleaning products were stored away and inaccessible to children. The outdoor play areas were fully enclosed, and staff ensured children were fully supervised while in the outdoor areas.

Infection Control:

Children were observed being supervised with washing their hands before eating, after messy play, outdoor play and after toileting. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service. The service was clean and well maintained. Cleaning schedules were maintained daily by staff.

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)

There were staff trained in first aid available to the children attending the early years service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the premises and was available for use.

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 firefighting 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 within the service. Records reviewed on inspection confirmed that the last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in April 2023.

(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment was serviced. The last maintenance carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place in February 2023.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that adequate insurance was in place.