

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DR003
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Leap Stone Montessori
-------------------------	-----------------------

Address of Service:	Christ Church Parochial Hall, Park Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	A96 NY50
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Jessica Barrett
-------------------------------------	-----------------

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

Date of Inspection:	13/05/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	12
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Level 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	R Phillips
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Leapstone Montessori is registered to provide part time and sessional education and care to preschool children from 2-6 years. The curriculum is facilitated through the Montessori method. The service operates Monday to Friday from 09:00-14:00 for 38 weeks of the year. The service is located in Christ Church parochial hall in Dun Laoghaire, where the preschool utilises one large room within the premises. There is a kitchen and sanitary accommodation incorporated into the hall available to the service, and an outdoor play area in an enclosed garden within the grounds of the church.

Staffing

There are two adults employed in the service. The registered provider manages the service and works 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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

9 (1)(2)(3)(4) – Management and recruitment,

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- 11 (1) (2) (4) – Staffing levels,
- 15 (1)(a)-(i) (3)(c) Record of a preschool child,
- 19 (1)(b) – Health, welfare and development of child,
- 23 Safeguarding, health, safety and welfare of child,
- 25 (1) (2) First Aid,
- 26 (1) (a)(b) (2) (c) (4) Fire safety measures.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of a preschool child.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) The registered provider was in charge of the service when the inspector arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection. The registered provider manages the service and was present throughout the inspection.

(2) The staff files of the two adults employed in the service were inspected and found to meet regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) There were four references from previous employers.

(c) Garda vetting had been sourced for all adults. The registered provider was compliant with the early years inspectorate's regulatory notice to renew garda vetting every three years.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (d) There was translated police vetting certification for one staff member who lived outside the Irish jurisdiction for six months or longer as an adult as required.
- (3) The procedures referred to in paragraph 2 above were carried out prior to the adult commencing in the service.
- (4) Records were available evidencing that the adults working directly with the children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or 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.*
- (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.*
- (4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-*
- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).*

Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children.
- (2) (4) The minimum ratio of adults to children was observed throughout the inspection. There was two adults caring for 14 children in the morning and two adults caring for 12 children after 12:30.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) A sample of ten children's records was reviewed and contained the required information to inform their care.

(3)(c) The records were made available to the inspector.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

There was drinking water available to the children at all times and they were encouraged to take drinks throughout the inspection. There was a healthy eating policy in the service and the children brought a snack and a packed lunch from home.

The staff sat with the children at mealtimes and engaged them in conversation in a relaxed manner.

The staff encouraged the children's independence and praised their efforts. The children were independent using the sanitary facilities and putting on their outdoor clothes before going out to play. Staff supported one child to change on return from the garden after their clothes got wet playing outdoors. The staff spoke kindly to the children throughout the inspection and were warm in their approach to helping with any personal care.

The children played outside and participated in a yoga class, facilitated by the registered provider for which the children chose the songs/yoga activities.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The children's lunches were stored in the fridge to prevent spoiling of perishable foods.

The entrance /exit was adequately secured to prevent unauthorised access to the service or children leaving unsupervised.

The toys and equipment in use were in good condition.

There were no hazards identified in the garden area.

The children were well supervised going and returning to the outdoor area to play.

Infection Control:

Warm water liquid soap and paper towels were available to the children and adults for handwashing.

Adults were observed washing their hands after supporting children with personal care and before meals.

The children were observed washing their hands after using the bathroom, after returning from outdoor play and before eating their lunches.

The staff cleaned the tables before and after mealtimes.

All waste was appropriately managed with the use of pedal operated lidded bins in the Montessori room, kitchen and sanitary area.

Administration of Medication:

They do not routinely administer medicine in the service but have parental consent for emergency medical treatment or administration of antipyretic medicine. The staff in the service described the process of safe medicine administration.

Medicine was stored appropriately in its own packaging, in date and out of reach of the children.

Fire Safety:

The fire exits were unobstructed within the service.

The assembly point is easily identifiable.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Fire procedures notices were displayed clearly throughout the service.

Outing:

The service obtained parental consent to bring children out from the service. They have a risk assessment and plan in place for keeping children safe if they take them to the park or local library.

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) One member of staff held an in date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificate on the premises throughout the inspection. The roster indicated that there was an adult with FAR training available to the children in the service at all times of opening. The second adult present had an in date paediatric first aid certificate.

(2)(a) The first aid boxes were adequately stocked and stored in conspicuous locations within the service.

(b) The first aid boxes were available to the adults and children in the service at all times.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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) The service maintained a record of monthly fire drills that had taken place in the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on 06 May 2026.
- (b) The last maintenance check for the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms was recorded as having taken place on the 17 November 2025 and 04 December 2025 respectively.
- (2)(c) The records were made available for inspection.
- (4) Notices of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous places throughout the service.