

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2016DR012			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	The Embassy Montessori			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Primary School, 5 Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Co. Dublin			
<b>Eircode:</b>	D0W 292			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Everina Kevery			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	12/10/2023			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	43	PM	13
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á Dunne			
<b>Title:</b>	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

The Embassy Montessori is a privately operated preschool service, situated in an urban area of south Dublin. The Service has three care rooms, one sensory sleep room and a kitchen located in the basement of the registered providers family home. Outdoor space is located to the rear of the premises where children have access to outdoor play equipment. The service provides full time, part time and sessional care and education to children aged 2 to 6 years and operates 7.30am to 18:00pm Monday to Friday 38 weeks per year in line with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

### Staffing

On the day of inspection there were six childcare staff including the registered provider caring for 43 children aged from 2 to 6 years of age in the morning session, and two childcare staff caring for 13 children aged from 2 to 6 years of age in the afternoon session with the registered provider and two childcare staff present in a supportive role.

### 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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the regulations.

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4).

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2)(8)(a),

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials.

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,

Regulation 25 First Aid (1)

and Regulation 26 Fire Safety

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

The scope of the inspection included the Junior 1 Classroom and the Senior Classroom and did not include the Junior 2 Classroom.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 21 - Equipment and materials and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment and Regulation 11 Staffing Levels were assessed across all the rooms.

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) During the Inspection, the files of nine staff members and one external contractor were reviewed.

(a) Two written and validated references were available for six staff members from a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for one staff member and one external contractor from a past employer.

(b) Two written and validated references were available for two staff members from a source other than from a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for one staff member and one external contractor from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting was available for nine staff members and one external contractor.

(d) Police vetting was available in respect of three staff members and one external contractor from two different countries who had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) The qualifications of nine staff members were reviewed: Evidence available demonstrated that nine staff members who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs (DCEDIY).

### 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) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection as follows:

##### **During the morning:**

Junior 1 room – 2 adults to 11 children aged between 2 to 3 years.

Junior 2 room – 2 adults to 13 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

Senior room - 2 adults to 19 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

##### **During the afternoon:**

Senior room - 2 adults to 13 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

(2) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as follows:

On the day of Inspection, there were six adults working with 43 children in the morning, and two adults working with 13 children in the afternoon.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

- The care rooms were bright and promoted independent access to activities, equipment and materials, children’s toys and equipment were displayed on low shelving and accessible for children to choose their own work.
- Age-appropriate materials of the Montessori learning approach were available in the care rooms laid out in a variety of designated interest areas:
  - Practical Life (trays with jugs, bowls, spooning, threading, tongs and pegs),
  - Sensorial (pink tower, brown stairs, long rods and knobbed cylinders),
  - Language (pencils, paper, insets for design, sandpaper letters, wooden letter puzzles books),
  - Mathematics (number rods, sandpaper numbers, wooden number puzzles),
  - Culture (world maps of continents, globes, wooden puzzles),
  - Rest areas were available in the care rooms to enable children to rest and take a break from activities, they consisted of soft comfortable child size chairs and books.

Additionally, there was a Creative area with paper, crayons and art materials.

- All materials and equipment in the care rooms were appropriate to the age and development of the child.
- The furniture provided in the pre-school rooms was low level and age appropriate for the children attending.
- Curriculum and daily schedule for each care room was on display.
- Artwork was displayed on the walls of each classroom.

### 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 via a secure gate which operates on a buzzer system preventing unauthorised access into the service and unauthorised exit from the service.
- The pre-school children were supervised at all times during the session.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the day of inspection.
- All cleaning materials and sharp implements were stored safely and out of reach of children.
- Emergency exits in the service were clear and unobstructed.
- Flexes and cables were secured and were inaccessible to the children.
- Toys and equipment were well maintained and free from hazards.
- Care room temperatures were maintained between 18°C to 22°C as follows:

Room	Time	Temperature
Senior Classroom	10.40am	20.1 ° C
Junior 1 Classroom	11.35 am	21.1 ° C

##### Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition throughout, with the premises and equipment visually clean.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled warm water, foam soap, and paper towels.
- Children were observed and supported to wash their hands after outdoor play, after bathroom visits, and before mealtimes.
- Pedal Bins were provided for the disposal of wastepaper in the sanitary facilities.
- The care rooms in the service were ventilated by open windows.
- Children's snacks, lunches and dinners which were brought from home were refrigerated on arrival to the service to prevent spoiling of perishable items.

## Safe Sleep:

- Children over two years were facilitated to sleep on low beds when their needs dictated for sleep in the sensory sleep room.
- Children were provided with suitable bed linen for sleep.
- 10-minute sleep checks were completed for each child's position, colour and breathing pattern.

## 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 service provided evidence that six adults trained in First Aid Response were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous positions on the premises.

### 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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2023.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type, and maintenance of the firefighting equipment which was last serviced 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and for the number, type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms in the premises, which were last serviced on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises.