

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DR025		
Name of Service:	Glenageary Montessori School		
Address of Service:	47 A Lower Albert Road, Glenageary, County. Dublin.		
Eircode:	A96 HP78		
Name of Registered Provider:	Betty Allen		
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	14/03/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	46	PM 36
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tulsa Child & Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.		
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill		
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

Glenageary Montessori School is one of two early years services owned and privately operated by the registered provider. The service is registered to provide a part time and sessional service to children aged 2-6 years and offers an Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme. The service operates each weekday from 09:00- 13:30.

The service is located in an urban, residential area of Glenageary south county Dublin. The premises consists of two prefabricated buildings. Care of the children is provided across four care rooms. An outdoor play area is available to the front of the premises.

Staffing

In total nine staff are employed in the service including the designated person in charge. On the 14 March 2023 nine staff worked 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/ safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service.

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 person in charge, 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

(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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises.

(2) Following a discussion with the person in charge it was confirmed that four new members of staff were employed in the service since the last inspection on 9 September 2021. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these new staff members and for one student who was present and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a) Of the ten validated, written references that were required, six were available from a past employer.

(b) A further two validated, written references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for five adults.

(d) Police vetting was available for three adults who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4) A record was available evidencing that three staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a) & (b) Two references provided from a past employer and a source other than a past employer had not been validated.

(d) There was no police vetting on file for one adult who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4) One adult who worked directly with children did not hold 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.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a) and (b) All staff references have been validated and are on file.

(d) This adult is no longer working in the service. The registered provider will ensure that all adults will have police vetting.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions stated by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for a part-time service was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were forty-six children attending the service being supervised by nine adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were two adults on the premises at all times.

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;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (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

- (h)* Details of the attendance of each child in the service were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.
- (i)* The staff roster was available.
- (j)* Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a pre-school child.
- (k)* A sample of accident and incidents records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

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)

Children were observed eating a variety of healthy snacks which were provided by parents. Children brought in their own water bottle and these were readily available. Snack time was relaxed children sat together and were given plenty of time to enjoy their food. Children were supported to use the toilet independently.

Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children engage in a variety of activities during the morning including circle time, baking and art. Staff communicate daily with parents at drop off and collection. The service also uses phone messaging and email to share information with parents and a newsletter is issued each term.

Rooms in the service were laid out with age-appropriate equipment. Montessori materials were accessible to the children from open low-level shelving in all rooms. Children's artwork for St Patrick's day was displayed on the walls in their care rooms. Rest areas equipped with soft seating were provided to allow the children to rest as required.

An enclosed outdoor space with a sheltered area was directly accessible from each care room. An artificial grass surface and paved area was available. A variety of outdoor play equipment was provided including a playhouse, slide, swings, climbing frame, bikes, cars and balls. All children were observed to enjoy time spent in outdoor area at a designated time.

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:

- To access the service an intercom system was in place at the main entrance and the gate was secured. This prevented unauthorised access and children being able to leave the area unsupervised.
- Play equipment used by the children was safe for the age group using them and in good condition.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- Fire exits were unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. A record of cleaning was maintained by each care room and the environment was clean.
- Wash hand basins both in and outdoors had a supply of thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towel to facilitate hand hygiene. Children were observed to wash their hands after using the toilet, outdoor play and prior to eating.
- Waste was managed appropriately pedal bin operated lidded bins were provided throughout the service.

Administration of Medication:

- There was documentation available to support the safe administration of medication should it be required.

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) A person trained in first aid for children was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in each care room and easily accessible.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) A written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 28 February 2023.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment were dated 13 September 2022 and 04 January 2023 for the smoke alarms.