

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DY014
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Name of Service:	Eden Montessori School
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Address of Service:	Lakelands, Greenlea Grove, Terenure, Dublin 6W, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D6W C660
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Name of Registered Provider:	Gillian Deane
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date(s) of Inspection:	07/07/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	22
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Co Dublin
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Inspection undertaken by:	L.Magee & S.Quigley
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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
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Description of service

Eden Montessori is a privately operated service which offers full-time, part-time and sessional education and care for children from two years 8 months to six years of age between 8 am - 6 pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from a single storey childcare facility on the grounds of Terenure College Rugby Football Club. There are three preschool rooms. The children have access to two different outdoor areas attached to the premises with artificial surfacing.

Staffing

The service currently employs eight staff members who all work directly with the children in the service. This does not include the registered provider or the area manager. On the day of inspection, five childcare practitioners were present and rostered to work in the service.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection included an assessment of the following regulations;

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

On inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, it was confirmed that the person in charge commenced working in the service last August 2024. The registered provider did not notify the Agency of these details until the 17/06/2025. However the details submitted were insufficient and this change in circumstances remains outstanding.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The change in circumstances was submitted and the correct person is now listed on the Tusla register. The service will ensure applications are submitted within sufficient time in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation was submitted to the change in circumstances department.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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) The files of all 8 staff were reviewed as part of the inspection process and for the purpose of assessing compliance with this regulation as evidenced below;

(a) Sixteen validated references were available from past employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all the adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all adults employed to work in the service.

(d) International police vetting was available for all adults who had lived outside the state for longer than six consecutive months.

(4) All members of staff who work 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 a qualification deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement.

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) An adequate number of adults were working with the children. There were 5 adults working directly with 22 children on the day of inspection.

(2) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement was maintained during the inspection.

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:

Appropriate measures had been taken to safeguard the children as outlined below:

External gates and doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. The fire escape routes were free from any obstructions. The outdoor play areas were safely enclosed by a surrounding fence. Heavy equipment was secured to prevent tipping and injury. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

The service has an infection control policy which informs the day to day running of the service. This was observed as evidenced below:

Children were supervised washing their hands after outdoor play, after using the toilet and before eating their meals. Both the indoor and outdoor environment were maintained in a clean condition. Completed cleaning schedules were in place demonstrating the daily and weekly procedures taken by the service. The sanitary facility was equipped with warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and pedal operated bins.

Administration of Medication:

Medications were stored in their original packaging and out of reach of children. Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of procedures to safeguard children when administering medicine. Care plans were available for children who required regular or emergency medication.

Fire Safety:

Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire. Regular fire drills were conducted in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

Administration of Medication:

Emergency medication, which was available for one child attending the service, was out of date since last September 2024. There is a risk that this medication may break down past its expiration date lessening its effectiveness.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Administration of Medication:

The manager sent an email on the day of inspection to the parents, as the child was away. The parent confirmed they would bring new in date medication upon the child's return. This medication has been added to the medicine box. To prevent this from reoccurring in the future the service has added medication dates to be checked on the medical daily checklists. All staff were informed about this.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation submitted was reviewed.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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 as a First Aid Responder (FAR) was immediately available to the children at all times during the opening hours of the service on the day of inspection.
- (2)
(a) The first aid box was adequately stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service as required.
(b) A first aid box was always available to the adults and children in the 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 detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 3 June 2025.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system had been serviced as required.
- (4)
- The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service