

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016KE016
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Name of Service:	Weston Primary Montessori
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Address of Service:	Barnhall Rugby Club, Parsonstown, Leixlip, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W23 E8HW
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sinead Langton
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	06/03/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	33	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Ballymore Eustace road, Naas, Co. Kildare W91 X38W
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan
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	n/a
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Description of service

Weston Primary Montessori was established in 2016 as a privately run childcare service for pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years. The service is part of the private primary Montessori school co located on the site.

The service provides sessional childcare and education to children Monday to Friday. The opening hours are 9.00am – 12.00hours.

A blend of play and Montessori ethos informs learning and underpins the curriculum within the service.

The service is located in a purpose-built premises within the grounds of a rugby club on the outskirts of Leixlip. The service consists of two classrooms with direct entry to a spacious outdoor play area at the side of the premises.

Parking available and set down facilities are available.

Staffing

Weston Primary Montessori employs four childcare staff including the registered provider who works directly with the children. There were four adults present on the day of inspection and all were working directly with the children in the two rooms. The adults working in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education as per the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 focused on an examination of compliance under

- Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1), (3) – Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 24 – Checking in and out and record of attendance.
- Regulation 25 – First Aid.
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures.
- Regulation 27 – Supervision
- Regulation 28 – Insurance.

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.

Additional Information

1. A written immediate action notice under Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child was issued to the registered provider by the Early Years Inspector on 6 March 2024.
2. A written response was received by the Early Years Inspector on 6 and 7 March 2024 from the service in relation to the immediate action notice. The response was accepted by the Early Years Inspectorate.

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

(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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
Four staff records were reviewed.
- (2)
- (a)(b) Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source in the absence of a past employer reference were available in respect of four adults employed in the service.
 - (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for four employed staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Not applicable as no staff member had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4) Four adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) There were thirty-three pre-school children attending the service being supervised directly by four adults.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to on the day of 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:

The person in charge documented the inspectors visit to the service in the visitor's book on arrival. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

There was an infection control policy in place. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels in paper dispensers were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Foot pedal operated bins were in place for the hygienic disposal of used paper towels. Cleaning schedules were available to evidence daily cleaning in each care room.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. Medication was stored safely out of the reach of children. The staff members were aware of the administration of medication policy and the safe practices to follow when administering medication.

Safe Sleep:

Comfortable rest areas were available.

Fire Safety:

The staff members were familiar with the fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. Fire exits were not obstructed.

Outing:

The service does not conduct outings.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The main entrance door to the building and the door to Preschool room 1 were not secured. This allowed the direct entry into the service by the inspector.

A written immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider by the Early Years Inspector on 6 March 2024. A written response was received by the Early Years Inspector on 6 and 7 March 2024, the response was accepted by the Early Years Inspectorate

2. A fire extinguisher was placed on floor rather than in secured wall mounted holder. This created a potential risk of injury to a child if the extinguisher fell on them.
3. There was no documentary evidence available that daily indoor and outdoor environmental risk assessments were completed.

Infection Control:

4. Single use disposable aprons were not available in the service for nappy changing which created a potential risk of cross infection.
5. The foot pedal operated bins in the sanitary areas attached to rooms 1 and 2 were too small as they were observed to be overflowing with used tissues. This posed a risk of infection to the children and staff.
6. Disposable paper towels were not placed in wall mounted dispensers in rooms 1 and 2 for hygienic dispensing of the paper towels as needed. This created a potential risk of cross infection.

Administration of Medication:

7. The written health care plans for seven children required to be reviewed and updated with parental consultation to ensure they reflected the current care needs required for the children attending the service.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The front door was locked immediately. The front door will be locked at 9am each morning and a poster put up on the main door. This action is noted in classroom risk assessment document. A designated staff member has been assigned responsibility for ensuring the front door will be locked each morning at 9am.
2. Fire extinguisher has been removed from preschool room 1 until it is mounted on the wall. The fire extinguisher has been added to classroom risk assessment document.
3. Daily indoor and outdoor risk assessment procedures and checklist have been implemented and daily checklist document available in preschool rooms 1 and 2.

Infection Control:

4. Single use disposable aprons have been purchased and are in preschool room 1 and 2 sanitary areas.
5. Four larger foot pedal operated bins have been purchased for the sanitary area used by preschool rooms 1 and 2.
6. Two new wall mounted paper towel dispensers have been purchased and have been mounted to the wall in preschool rooms 1 and 2.

Administration of Medication:

7. Written care plans are now in place for all the children who require them. At registration, parents with children in need of a care plan will meet with teachers to write the care plan before commencing preschool.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Documents points 1 and 3

Infection Control:

Photographs points 2 and 5; Document point 4.

Administration of Medication:

Care plan documents point 7

Summary Comment

The written response, photographic and documentary evidence submitted has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. The requirement for regulatory compliance has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.
- (2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) no person other than-
 - (i) pre-school child attending the service,
 - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,
 - (iii) an employee, or
 - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and
 - (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a),(b) The registered provider ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.
- (4) The records are retained for the required period.

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) Persons were trained in in First Aid Response (FAR) for children and were immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the care room.
- (b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available to the children attending 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 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 fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 13 February 2024.
- (b)
- A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment was serviced October 2023, and the smoke alarm was last serviced on 4 January 2024
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the entrance hallway and rooms of the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

Children in the service were observed being supervised at all times throughout the inspection including, indoors and outdoors, during snack time and as necessary for hand washing and toilet use.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 1 September 2024. The insurance provided cover for 44 children.