

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016TY009				
Name of Service:	Rosegreen Rascals Montessori Preschool				
Address of Service:	Community Hall, Rosegreen, Cashel, Tipperary				
Eircode:	E25 RD34				
Name of Registered Provider:	Marie Cummins				
Service type:	Full Day				
Date of Inspection:	09/05/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>16</td> <td>PM</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	AM	16	PM	1
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Tipperary.				
Inspection undertaken by:	E Cullen				
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
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Description of service

This full day care service opened in 2016 in the rural area of Rosegreen, Tipperary. The service operates 8:00am to 5:00pm daily 38 weeks of the year and offers a sessional service 09:30am to 12:30pm for children availing of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. A school aged service is also in operation, providing a breakfast club and afterschool care. The service is located the community hall building with sole use of a classroom, kitchenette and sanitary accommodation. The large community hall is used during drop off and collection periods. Outdoor play areas are available to the rear of the building, with an area dedicated for use by the service and other shared areas such as an all-weather pitch and walking track.

Staffing

There were four staff members working directly with children on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work directly in the service. Staff members held qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care at Level 5 and 6 on 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 premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9, 10, 11, 15, 19 and 20. As a result, the scope of the inspection included time spend indoors and outdoors.

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

(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

There were no new staff members since the last inspection, files were reviewed for each of the four staff members employed by the service.

(2)(a)(b) Two validated references were available for each staff member from either a past employer, or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for each staff member.

(d) Police vetting was available where a staff member had lived outside the state for a period over 6 months.

(4) A certificate of qualification was available on file demonstrating that four out of the five staff members held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

There were written policies, procedures and statements, as specified in Schedule 5, available for the service. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the following: policy on healthy eating, policy on accidents and incidents, policy on infection control, policy on safe sleep, policy on outings, policy on administration of medication and the policy on managing behaviour in the service. These policies and procedures were appropriate, specific to the setting and reviewed regularly.

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) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff were working directly with the children at all times.

(2) There were sixteen children with four staff members directly supervising them during the morning of the inspection. One early years child was present for full day care, along with school aged children who attended for the afternoon.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) – (i) Prior to a child commencing in the service, all parents and/or guardians were issued with a child registration form. This registration form was developed by the service and contained all of the required information for parents and/or guardians to complete. Additional documents confirmed parental consent for emergency medical treatment.

A sample of ten child registration forms were reviewed on the day of inspection, and all were completed in full with appropriate declarations signed by parents and/or guardians.

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

Staff members sat with children in small groups or individually, engaged in conversation with and listened attentively to the children as they spoke. They were observed to treat the children with respect and a positive regard. Staff members had set up learning stations for the children to engage with, on the day of inspection these were pre-writing, art and crafts, language and fine motor activities. Children had choice and autonomy over the activities they took part in each day.

Strategies were in place to support children transition from one activity to the next. For example, before morning snack, a child had the job of ringing the clean-up bell. The children seamlessly began to tidy away the materials they were using independently and with little assistance from staff members. Children demonstrated pride in their environment, ensuring materials were appropriately stored away in the correct location and supporting each other to do so. A helper chart further listed jobs such as handing out plates for each child and a counting activity.

Parent and guardian communication during collection and drop off periods, provided an opportunity for staff to share information with parents. Additional methods of communication such as text messages and the service's social media platforms and newsletters were used to share information children's learning.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(2) A registered provider-

(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, or

shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The service was comprised of a single room which was bright, well laid out and resourced. The furniture and equipment had been used to create well defined interest areas with ample space in each area for children to play, explore and work together in pairs and small groups. Interest areas included: a cosy library, geography, fine motor area, language, imaginative play and home corner, construction, art and craft and tabletop activities.

(b) The service had a cosy library area where children could rest during the session if required. Soft wipeable seating provided a cosy surface for children to sit and rest. A low-level bed and bedlinen were available should a child require a sleep.

(2)(a) Children had access to several outdoor play facilities onsite. These included an enclosed outdoor play area for sole use of the service. The service had shared use of two all-weather enclosed artificial grass pitches, grass playing fields and walking track.

On the day of inspection children were observed to use the enclosed play area to the rear of the premises and the walking track. The play spaces were free from hazards and equipment was safe for use by the age group of children in attendance.