

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016WW037
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Name of Service:	Little Bunnies Montessori
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Address of Service:	Unit 1, Parnell Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A98 YN81
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Name of Registered Provider:	Aisling Walsh
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/10/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	33	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	Mona Condon
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).

Description of service

Little Bunnies Montessori is a sessional service which was first established in 2017. The service is registered to provide care and education for pre-school children aged 2-6 years and operates from 9.00am to 12.30pm and 1pm to 4pm daily. The service is located in a purpose-built premises and is part of an apartment complex in Bray town, County Wicklow. There are two preschool rooms and adjacent sanitary accommodation, a store room and an office. The outdoor area is located at the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There were five adults working directly with the children on the day of inspection.

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 may also focus on other areas as required.

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

(2)

A total of six staff files were reviewed.

(a) & (b)

Twelve written and validated references were available for six adults.

(c)

The required Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the six adults employed.

(d)

Police vetting was available for one adult employed who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months as an adult.

(4)

The six adults employed held major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at National Framework for 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) Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children.
- (3) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection. On inspection there were five adults providing direct care to thirty-three pre-school children.

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(i)

Twelve files were examined by the Inspector.

In relation to the files examined, the record required in writing in relation to (a)-(i) above was kept for each child.

Each child's file was located in a secure place in their care room.

(3) (c) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) (a)-(i) was open to inspection on the premises by the inspectors.

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)(b)

Basic Needs of Infants & Children

- Healthy snacks consisting of sandwich, fruit and yogurt were supplies by the parents of the children. Staff sat with the children and assisted them as needed and engaged them in conversation. Drinking water was available for the children throughout the session.
- All children were facilitated to move freely while indoors and outdoors.
- Children who used the toilet independently and assistance was given if required. Nappy changing was facilitated in the sanitary area.
- Individual care plans were available for three children who required them.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The two playrooms were spacious, warm and comfortable and laid out to meet the needs of the children in each room. An ambient temperature of 18.5°C – 20°C was maintained in the care rooms and the sanitary areas.
- A variety of toys and equipment were easily accessible to the children in both of the rooms from low level shelving. Areas of interest in the rooms included a home corner, art area, construction, transport and a library. There was evidence of the children's artwork on display in the rooms.
- A secure outdoor area was available at the rear of the premises. Staff were observed playing ball and games with the children while outdoors.

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 perimeter of outdoor play area had a high wall and fencing. The main entrance to the premises was secured.
- All cleaning products were stored out of the reach of children.
- At collection time at 12:00 the service had a system was in place to ensure that children who were identified and would not leave the service accidentally at this time.

Infection Control:

- Two toilets available for use by the children. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels available.
- Pedal operated bins were available for the safe disposal of used paper towels in the sanitary area and in the care room.
- Table cleaning was observed before snack time.
- Hand washing by the adult and children was observed after using the toilet and before lunch.
- All toys and equipment were clean and in good condition.

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.
- Temperature reducing medication was available, in date and stored safely.

Outings:

The registered provider stated that no outings are undertaken from the service at present.

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)
One adult trained in First Aid Response was present and immediately available to the pre-school children. Two other adults present had a qualification in Basic First Aid.

(2)
(a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children

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 record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises. The last fire drill was recorded on the 29/09/2023.
- (b)
- A record was available detailing the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarm was available and dated September 2023 and March 2023 respectively.
- (4)
- Notices were displayed in conspicuous positions, detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.

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

All children were supervised by the staff members at all times during the inspection.

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 27th of March 2024. The insurance provides cover for up to 44 children.