

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016WX008		
Name of Service:	White House Montessori		
Address of Service:	Rosslare, Co. Wexford		
Eircode:	Y35 FP84		
Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Ryan		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	24/11/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford		
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry		
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

This service is situated in the centre of Rosslare. There is a sessional service provided to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age and operated from a designated room in the registered providers home. The service consists of an early years room, toilets and a safe secure outdoor play area. The service is open from 09:30hrs to 13:00hrs Monday to Friday for 38 weeks per year.

Staffing

The service is operated single handedly by the registered provider. The registered provider has a diploma from the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI).

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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (3) (8)(c)

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child (1) (a),

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,

Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4).
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 registered provider 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.

(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 registered provider is currently operating a single-handed service. Her staff file was reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)(b)

There were two written references available on file from two reputable sources which did not require to be validated.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for the registered provider.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as the registered provider had not lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

The registered provider has a diploma from the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI).

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.

(8) (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1)

There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider is currently operating a single-handed service.

(3)

During the morning session there were seven children being directly cared for by the registered provider.

(8)(c)

There was a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the registered provider within close distance of the service. This named person was available to attend the service to assist the registered provider in the event of an emergency.

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)

The registered provider had ensured that each child's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of appropriate activities during the inspection including enjoying circle time, painting and playing together in the outdoor area.

The service had a secure outdoor play area to the side of the service. Children were observed enjoying free play in the outdoor area on the morning of the inspection. Children were well supported and supervised. The area was well resourced with imaginative open ended play equipment to extend the children's learning and fun. The ground was covered in a bark mulch to help prevent the children hurting themselves if they fell. There was a mud kitchen with utensils, there was a wooden wigwam, there was a fairy door at the base of a tree. In the corner of the playground there were mature shrubs where children could run around and play and pretend to make a den.

The early years room was well resourced with play equipment. The materials were easily accessible and visible to the children on low level shelves. There were comfortable armchairs for the children and a selection of books for the children to look at in the rest area which was at the large glass door in the service. There was a family wall with photos of the children's parents and siblings displayed.

Snack time was observed in the service. The children took great pride in showing the inspector table place mats which they had painted, and the registered provider had laminated. The registered provider said the mats were placed on the tables in a different pattern every day before snack time. This was useful to ensure children mixed well in the service with their friends.

The registered provider was knowledgeable in relation to the individual likes and dislikes of the children. For example, some children took longer than others to finish their snack. They were observed to be given lots of time to finish their snack at their own pace. Minor disagreements between children were managed promptly by the registered provider who was constantly engaged with the children.

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

The registered provider had taken the following steps to ensure the safety of the children attending the service.

General safety:

The front gate which parents used to access the service remained secure for the duration of the inspection. Hazardous cleaning products were stored out of reach on shelves which were inaccessible to the children.

Infection control:

The service appeared to be clean on the day of inspection. There was a fridge available to store the perishable food provided by the parents for the children. All sinks for hand washing in the service were equipped with warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and foot operated pedal bins. The children were encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and after messy play.

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)
There was evidence available in the service stating that the registered provider was trained in first aid for children.
- (2)(a)(b)
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises which was available to the children attending the early years 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)
There was a template in place in the service to record any fire drills that takes place in the service. The last fire drill carried out in the service was recorded in October 2023.
- (b)
There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment was last serviced in March 2023.

(4)
There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position beside the main entrance of the service.

Non-Compliance Information

There was no record in writing available of the annual maintenance of the smoke alarm in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

A record in writing of the annual maintenance of the smoke alarm is now available on file in the service. The smoke alarm was last serviced in January 2024. The registered provider will ensure the annual maintenance of the smoke alarm in the service is carried out annually in the future.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence that adequate insurance was in place for the children to attend the service.