

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017DY504			
Name of Service:	The Georgian Montessori Primary School CLG			
Address of Service:	40 Belvedere Place, Dublin 1			
Eircode:	D01 V4F5			
Name of Registered Provider:	Maedbh Counihan			
Service type:	Full Day			
Date of Inspection:	19/06/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	8
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8			
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Finnegan Hayes			
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

The Georgian Montessori Primary School CLG is a full day care service located over three floors in a converted residential building in Dublin City Centre. The service consists of one room for school aged children and a kitchen/dining room at basement level, one classroom for school aged children at ground floor level and two classrooms at first floor level for preschool aged children. The service is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 22 children aged 3-6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday from 8am-6pm and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme 38 weeks of the year. The service also operates as an independent primary school for children aged 6-12 years and offers school-age care. An enclosed outdoor area is available to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs eleven staff to work in the service including the service manager, five staff who work with preschool children, two staff who work with school aged children, a relief staff member, an administrator, and a janitor. The registered provider does not 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, safety and premises and facilities. 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 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,*

(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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.
 - (b) Discussion with staff and a review of the staff roster showed that a named person in charge is present on the premises during the opening hours.
- (2) Discussion with management and a review of the roster showed that eleven staff are currently employed in the service including the service manager, five staff who work with preschool children, two staff who work with school aged children, a relief staff member, an administrator and a janitor. The files of all eleven staff were reviewed in full.
- (a) (b) Twenty-two written and verified references were available in relation to 11 staff members.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all eleven staff employed in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for three staff members who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of more than 6 months as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that six staff members who worked 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 Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2) (d) Police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of more than six months as an adult. It is acknowledged that the service provided evidence of an application to obtain the relevant vetting on the day following the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

An application has been made to obtain the relevant police vetting. The service have reviewed their vetting procedures.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of the receipt for police vetting was reviewed.

Summary Comment

Regulatory compliance remains outstanding for Regulation (9)(2)(d) until the processed police vetting document is obtained and held in the staff members personnel file.

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) There were 14 preschool children being cared for by two adults on the morning of inspection.

(2) Ratios were maintained during the inspection. The following was observed;

- In Room 1 one staff member was caring for 6 children aged 3-6 years old.
- In Room 2 one staff member was caring for 7 children aged 3-6 years old.
- In Room 3 one staff member was caring for 6 children aged 6-9 years and one child aged 5 years who was transitioning from Room 1.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured there was adequate facilities for children to play indoors and outdoors during the day. The following was observed;

- A range of montessori equipment was provided in both care rooms in line with the nature and ethos of the service. All of which was arranged in defined areas and accessible to the children on low level shelving.
- A range of toys were available including playhouses, dolls and accessories, animals and dinosaurs. The service is in the process of transitioning from the montessori curriculum to the summer curriculum with montessori work being swapped out for additional play equipment on an ongoing basis.
- A range of books which were maintained in good condition were readily available to the children in each room supporting the development of pre-reading skills.
- The registered provider ensured a safe and suitable outdoor area was available onsite for children to use during the day.

(b) The registered provider ensured adequate and suitable facilities for sleep and rest were available to all children who required them. For example;

- A cosy corner was available for children to rest and take a break from activities as needed throughout the day.
- A low-level bed was available for any child who required sleep during the day. Due to the age of children attending this was available as needed with no set sleep time implemented.

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 service entrance was secure to prevent unauthorised persons entering the service. The door was fitted with a thumb lock at adult height to prevent children leaving the service unsupervised.
- The outdoor area was adequately secured with a bolt at adult height and no visible risks or hazards.
- Windows in the care rooms were fitted with restrictive opening devices for safety purposes.
- Grapes which were brought from home were sliced lengthways in line with the service healthy eating policy to prevent choking.
- Toys and equipment were well maintained and free from hazards.
- Bins in the outdoor area were adequately secured and inaccessible to the children.
- Tall shelving in the care rooms were adequately secured to the wall to prevent tipping.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, dispensed soap and paper handtowels were available to support adequate hand hygiene.
- Handwashing was observed to be completed at regular intervals throughout the day for example following outdoor activities and before lunch. Staff were heard reminding children to wash their hands following toilet use.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were used throughout the service for disposal of contaminated items.
- Cleaning checklists were complete to date.

Administration of Medication:

- Fever reducing medication was stored safely out of reach of the children.

Fire Safety:

- Staff were knowledgeable of procedure to be followed in the event of a fire emergency.
- Notices detailing the steps to take in the event of a fire were displayed throughout the service; in communal areas and care rooms

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) The registered provider ensured that a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) was available at all times to the children in the service. On the day of inspection two staff who held up to date FAR certification were present and rostered for the full duration of the opening hours.

(2) (a)(b) The registered provider ensured that a suitably equipped first aid boxes were available for use and accessible on each floor of the service. These were stored on a high press out of reach of 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) The registered provider ensured that the following records were maintained;

(a) A record of monthly fire drills showed that the last fire drill had taken place on 23rd May 2024.

(b) A record of servicing and maintenance for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms showed that the firefighting equipment was last serviced on 12th September 2023 while the smoke alarms were last serviced on 5th June 2024.

(4) Notices detailing the steps to take in the event of a fire emergency were displayed throughout the service; in communal areas and care rooms.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately ensured for the type of service provided and number of children attending the service. The insurance certificate reviewed showed the insurance is in place up to 25th June 2024