

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2018LH506

**Name of Service** Playmates Montessori St. Joseph's School

**Address of Service:** The Old Mell School, Mell, Drogheda, Co. Louth, A92 WP76

**Email Address:** playmatesmontessori@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Jacqueline Walshe

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed change:** Change in number of children from 36 to 55 children, adding additional room.  
Increase the number of staff from 6 to 7 staff

**Proposed Number of Children:** 55

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Change in number of children from 36 to 55 children, adding additional room.  
Increase the number of staff from 6 to 7 staff

**Registered change:** Change in number of children from 36 to 55 children  
Change in number of staff from 6 to 7 staff

**Date of Inspection:** 1 4 0 7 2 0 2 5

**Inspection undertaken by:** M.Flood

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate Child Wellbeing Centre,  
Castleblayney  
Co. Monaghan

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
**Proposed Change of Circumstance**

**Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office**

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Sessional Service for 55 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025

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### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Playmates Montessori St Joseph’s school is a privately owned Early years’ service offering sessional early years care and education to children aged 2 to 6 years. The service currently caters for 36 children participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and operates from 9 am to 12.30 pm Monday to Friday.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to increase the number of children attending from 36 to 55.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service is located in 2 care rooms; namely Rooms 1 &amp; 2 in a community building in Drogheda Co Louth and has exclusive use of the building during the operational hours of the service. An enclosed outdoor area is available to the children on the premises.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to open an additional (3<sup>rd</sup>) room to cater for the proposed increase in numbers.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>There are 6 adults employed in the service, including the registered provider.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to increase staff numbers to 7.</p>
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<p>The Inspector would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection. There were no children present during the inspection.</p>

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### 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.

**Requirement met:**

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy person to deputise as required.

### 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)

**Requirement met:**

(1) The requirement has been met.

It is proposed that 7 staff including the registered provider will be available to work directly with the pre-school children. The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6.

### 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 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—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, 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.

**Requirement met:**

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

The preschool children have access to adequate and suitable facilities for play both indoors and outdoors on the premises. The 3 playrooms are spacious and purposely developed with specific areas of interest e.g. a home area, a variety of Montessori play materials and equipment, role play and dress up area, low level open storage units with a variety of toys e.g. small world toys, jigsaws, transport toys and animals. An inviting reading and rest area with a variety of books on display is available in each room.

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(b) The children have access to a soft /rest area which is located within each of the playrooms and consists of soft mats and cushions and age-appropriate comfortable chairs.

(2)(b) A suitable safe and secure outdoor area is available for the children to access on the premises.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met:  
All snacks and lunches are provided by the parents for the children attending the service on a sessional basis. A refrigerator is available in each of the care rooms for the appropriate storage of perishable items.  
Potable drinking water is available in the service.

### 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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met:  
The following are examples of appropriate measures that have been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children including:

- The external doors are appropriately secured to prevent children exiting from the service unsupervised or to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- The designated emergency exits are clear and unobstructed.
- A supply of thermostatically controlled hot water to a maximum of 43°C is available in the service.
- All blind cords were restricted and were therefore inaccessible to the preschool children.
- Cleaning products are stored out of reach to the children.
- No trailing cables, wires or flexes are accessible to the preschool children.
- Radiators in the care rooms are thermostatically controlled and did not exceed the required maximum surface temperature of 50°C.

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### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met:

(1) Three staff members have up to date training in First Aid Responder (FAR). Certificates of training were available at the time of inspection.

(2)(a)&(b) A suitably stocked first aid bag was provided in the service and is available as required.

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A recording system is in place to maintain a record of monthly fire drills.

(b) A maintenance record for the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available and was dated 04/2025 and 09/06/2025 respectively.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was available in the service. The fire assembly point was clearly identified and visible.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met:

Documentary evidence was available of adequate insurance cover for 36 pre-school children for sessional care. A quotation was also available for the proposed increase in numbers from 36 to 55. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance

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is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28

### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,
- (b) safe and secure,
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met:

- (a) On visual inspection the building appeared to be sound and stable.
- (b) The service is appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access. The partially covered outdoor play area is secured with latched gates, and fencing. The registered provider gave assurances that the front gates are always locked and secured when the children access the green area to the front of the building and at all times when the preschool is in operation.
- (c)
  - The premises was adequately lit by means of natural lighting and supplemented by artificial lighting. All lights were fitted with protective covers.
  - The premises was heated by means of a gas fired heating system. Documentary evidence was available of the maintenance certificate which was dated 21/08/2024.
  - Ventilation was provided by means of openable windows and doors.
- (d) The premises was found in a clean condition and in good repair.
- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities, including nappy changing facilities are available to cater for the proposed 55 preschool children.

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### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met:

(1) Adequate clear floor space is available for the proposed increase in numbers attending the pre-school service for the children’s work, play and movement.

(3) The following clear floor space is available in the service to cater for the proposed increase in numbers to 55 preschool children:

Room 1: A total of 39.501 m<sup>2</sup> clear floor space is available to cater for the proposed 19 preschool attending on a sessional basis.

Room 2: A total of 35.035m<sup>2</sup> clear floor space is available to cater for the proposed 17 preschool children attending on a sessional basis.

Room 3: A total of 39.4m<sup>2</sup> clear floor space is available to cater for the proposed 19 preschool children attending on a sessional basis.

Based on this information adequate clear floor space is available to cater for the proposed increase in numbers of preschool children attending the service.