

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019GY004
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Name of Service:	Kiltiernan Montessori and Afterschool
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Address of Service:	Scoil Cronain, Kiltiernan West, Kilcolgan, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 T2N2
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Name of Registered Provider:	Samantha Geaghan
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	12/06/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate Estuary House , Henry St, Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	E Browne
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

Kiltiernan Montessori and afterschool was established in 2019. The childcare service provides part time care to pre-school children aged 2 years to 6 years. The pre-school service operates a part time service from 9.00am to 14.00pm and a sessional service from 09:30am to 12:30 Monday to Friday.

A school aged service is also available to the children attending the local National school.

The service has recently moved from their previous playroom in the school to a newly refurbished and extended playroom in the same school, which is Kiltiernan National school, Kilcolgan Co Galway.

The service consists of the main playroom, a smaller playroom and sanitary facilities for preschool children which are directly off the main playroom. The adult sanitary facilities are located in the main school building.

The service also has access to an enclosed outdoor play area at the rear and the side of the building and to the school field.

Staffing

There are three adults working in the service and this included the manager of the service.

The registered provider does not work in this 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/ health, welfare and development of child/ and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19 , 24 and 25.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Records in relation to a pre-school child.

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

(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, and*

(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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge and the deputy person were on the premises on the day of inspection.

(2) There were three staff employed in the service and all were working in the service on the day.

The registered provider had ensured that each employee working in the service was suitable and competent as the following documents were available on file for the three staff employed.

(a) References from the person's past employers and the most recent employer were available for the staff.

(b) References from reputable sources in the case of a person who had no past employers were available where required.

(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of all staff.

(d) Police vetting available for one staff member who had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) All staff had childcare qualifications ranging from level 5 to level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 2 staff working with 11 pre-school children. The adult/child ratio in the service was correct. The manager was available on site if required.

(2) The written staff roster showed that the service manager ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in the service.

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.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance Information

(1) The service maintained an adequate record for each child attending the service, in accordance with Regulation 15(1) (a) to (i) in the eleven children's records inspected.

(3)

(a) Parents/guardians had access to all information and written records relating to their own child.

(b) Records were available to the authorised person in the service.

(c) Records were open and available for inspection to the Tusla Early Years Inspector.

(4) Records were retained for 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

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

BASIC NEEDS

Healthy eating was promoted within the service. Adequate, suitable, nutritious, and varied food and drink was observed to be available for each pre-school child attending the service. Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack and meal without being rushed.

The parents provided the snack foods and drinks for their child attending the sessional care and a meal prepared by the service was available for the children staying for part time care.

Children could access the bathroom at any time during the session. The staff supervised children's hand washing and provided assistance when needed.

Good personal hygiene practices were observed. Children washed their hands before snack break and after toileting and messy play.

Children had opportunities to move about freely in the playroom during their free play time.

The adults were positive and consistent in their approach to managing children's behaviour.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

The indoor environment consisted of one playroom which was comfortable, bright and welcoming, providing a good range of developmentally appropriate and challenging experiences for the children. Suitable low-level tables and seating were provided for children. A smaller room with a variety of play materials was available should a child need some time away from the general play area.

The range of play resources were sufficient and varied to support all areas of children's development and offer sensory stimulation. These included materials that required children to use their gross motor, fine motor, thinking and reasoning skills and support their language development.

The play equipment was freely available and accessible to the children when needed on low level open shelving. Play equipment and materials were grouped to provide specific interest areas and appealing places for children to play and explore.

The service has enhanced outdoor play areas with an all-weather ground surface area and access to the large green school field to enjoy the experiences of nature. There was outdoor seating area, a variety of ride on vehicles, playhouse, water play, planted areas, nature tables and a variety of games available for the children.

On the day of the inspection children were outdoors in the enclosed outdoor area enjoying the experiences of nature playing with water, sand and other play equipment.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1) Each child attending the service was checked in and out by a relevant member of staff on the day. A record of each child attending was kept on a daily basis and was available and readily accessible to the relevant staff.

(3) The registered provider has ensured that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service.

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child.

(iii) an employee.

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing was maintained of the entry on the premises of any such person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of 1 years from the date on which it relates.

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 were one staff on duty who had up to date first aid response training.

(2)(a) There was a first aid box located in the main playroom of the service.

(b) The first aid box was readily available and accessible to all staff if required. A staff member was assigned responsibility to regularly check the contents in each first aid box. All items were removed when expired and the box was regularly restocked.