

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2019GY007

Name of Service Ballyglass Montessori & Afterschool

Address of Service: Ballyglass National School, Ardrahan, Co. Galway, H91D263.

Email Address: ellemenopealtd@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms. Samantha Geaghan

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

Proposed change:	Proposed increase in number of preschool children attending the service. Proposed change of operating hours from 9:15 am to 12:15 pm to 9 am to 12:30 pm.
Proposed Number of Children:	16
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Approve all changes
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 11 to 16. Change of hours of operation from 09:15 - 12:15 to 09:00 - 12:30

Date of Inspection:	2	8	0	8	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: S. Meehan.
Title: Early Years Inspector.

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor-Green Corridor), Merlin Park Hospital, Galway.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 16 Children
Date of Registration	11 th September 2023

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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).

Description of Service	The service operates a sessional care programme from 9 am to 12.30 pm. The service is in Ballyglass national school, in a rural area of south county Galway. The service is registered to cater for pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years of age.
Premises	The service has an allocated playroom with its own entrance to the rear of Ballyglass national school. There are also adequate sanitary facilities, nappy changing area and a self-contained kitchen. The service has a large enclosed outdoor area to the front of the service and access to a football pitch and a green area.
Staffing	The service proposes to have a manager in charge and another adult who can deputies with an award in Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, in Early Childhood Care and Education.
Methodology	<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>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the area manager who was present on the day of the inspection.

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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, there is a designated person in charge, there is a manager and a deputy manager rostered on the premises.

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.

Requirement met:

(1) The registered provider proposes to maintain the minimum ratio of adults to children. The registered provider proposes that there will be a max of 16 pre-school children being cared for by 2 staff members in the proposed playroom.

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.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There are adequate and suitable facilities in the proposed playroom, with defined interest areas provided for play. The registered provider intends to develop these interest areas further depending on the child's interests, emerging needs learning stories, and developing themes. On the day of inspection, play equipment and materials were inviting and easily accessible in the proposed Giraffe playroom.

(b) The service will be catering for children over 2 years of age and stackable beds and mats are available for rest and sleep. Children will be put down to sleep in the Giraffe playroom for structured sleep.

(3)(a) The service had an outdoor play area to the front of the premises with a large, secured area covered by tarmac. The preschool children also have access to a football pitch and a green area. There is a selection of sports equipment, ride on toys and a sensory play area.

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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:	A healthy eating policy is in place and children will bring their own snacks to the service. A drinks station will be accessible to children. There will be a designated fridge for the safe storage of perishable food items. The registered provider advised the inspector of a safe system where all food and drinks brought from the child's home will be identifiable to the child.
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main entrance had a buzzer system to the pre-school which was secured to prevent the public having access to children and ensuring children could not exit the service unsupervised. • Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately. • Cables were out of reach of children or secured. • The registered provider had a fridge for the storage of perishable items from children's lunch boxes. • Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels. Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43° C to facilitate hygienic hand washing without risk of scalding the children was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing. • There was a cleaning schedule available and a sample cleaning record. • The doors into the kitchen, staff toilet and storage areas had a system of security and were thereby inaccessible to the children. • All cleaning agents and equipment were stored inaccessible and out of children's reach. • The manager proposed to complete a daily risk assessment. • A health and safety policy was available which included a risk assessment system. • The service risk assessment system ensured toys and equipment were checked to ensure that they were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair. • The manager advised that the outdoor play equipment would be cleaned after each child's use and prior to each child's use - with documented records maintained. A sample documented risk assessment of the outdoor play areas was available for review. • There were no pits or ponds in the outdoor pre-school area to cause any risk of danger to pre-school children.
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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) Two staff working in the pre-school service have a current first aid responder qualification.
- (2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible conspicuous position in the pre-school.
- (b) The first aid box was readily available with content items in date.

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) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills.
- (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file. Records indicated that the firefighting equipment was annual serviced on the 10/09/2022. Records indicated that the fire detection system was annual serviced in August 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed at the entrance to the pre-school.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

- The service's had insurance for a sessional service for up to 20 children valid until 27th March 2024 and included the following –
- public liability insurance.
 - insurance against fire and theft.
 - buildings insurance.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

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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) The manager of the service confirmed that there were no known structural defects.
- (b) The proposed outdoor play area and pre-school play area were safe and secure.
- (c) The playroom and sanitary areas were well lit and ventilated. The lighting was both natural and artificial. The warm water in the proposed designated sanitary area was maintained at a safe temperature and no greater than 43°C.
- (d) The proposed playroom had play and work equipment that was clean and in good repair. Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from the pre-school children in designated inaccessible secured storage areas. There was a proposed cleaning schedule available for inspection. From observation, the proposed play area was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- (e) The proposed playroom had two a designated children’s toilets and wash hand basins. Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in designated dispensers were within easy access to a pre-school child. Foot pedal lidded bins were provided in the sanitary area. Additionally in the sessional service there were designated adult toilets with designated wash hand basins.

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.
- (2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the 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 floor space is provided in the proposed playroom for the free movement of children to work and play.
- (3) The measurement of the proposed playroom room floor space is 40 sq. meters and on a sessional basis 1.818 square metres of clear floor space per child is required. The service can cater for the required increase from 11 preschool children to 16 preschool children.