

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019GY007			
Name of Service:	Ballyglass Montessori & Afterschool			
Address of Service:	Ballyglass National School, Ballyglass, Ardrahan, Co. Galway.			
Eircode:	H91 D263			
Name of Registered Provider:	Samantha Geaghan			
Service type:	Sessional			
Date(s) of Inspection:	29/11/2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM	7
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla -Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulations Directorate ,Clinical and Administration Building, Block A – First Floor -Green Corridor, Merlin Park Hospital, Galway City.			
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan.			
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

This privately-owned, part-time service known as Ballyglass Montessori and Afterschool in Ballyglass national school, in a rural area of county Galway. The preschool offers an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), sessional care programme from 9 am to 12:30 pm, Monday to Friday, for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

There are 3 adults working in the service which includes the register provider and student. The adults working directly with the children in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of a level 5 in Early Childhood Education.

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. 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, 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) The registered provider ensured that there was a named designated person in charge. There was a named person who could deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)(a)(b) There were 6 written, validated references from past employers or a reputable source available in respect of the 3 adults working in the service.
- (c) Vetting disclosures from the Garda Síochána were available in respect of 3 adults working in the service.
- (d) Police vetting from the police authorities in another jurisdiction where a person had lived for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months was required and available for 1 adult.
- (4) The registered provider ensured that all adults working directly with children had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education; the 2 adults had at least a minimum of a level 5.

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) The attendance records were reviewed by the inspector indicating that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the pre-school children.
- (2) The adult and child ratio were correct and maintained on the day of inspection. There were 2 adults and a student were working with and caring directly for 7 pre-school children.

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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(19)(1)(a) and (b)

BASIC NEEDS:

- The healthy eating policy was available for parents and guardians to view. Children enjoyed a rolling snack throughout the morning.
- ne meal and snack times and or an alternative food option.
- Water was available for children to self-serve in the playroom and in the outdoor play area, when required.
- Age-appropriate crockery and plates were offered and used during children's meals and snack times.
- Children were seated at the table during snack and mealtimes when their food was ready. Children sat at a comfortable height in relation to the tabletop. The tables and chairs were suitable to their age and stage of development.
- All the children were toilet trained and used the sanitary area independently or with some help by a member of staff.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size couch.
- Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by staff, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement and encouragement.
- The children could move about freely in the playroom and children got an opportunity to play together in the outdoor play area.

- There was an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises which was sufficiently spacious to accommodate the numbers of children attending the service. All the children had the opportunity to play outside on the day of inspection. The children were appropriately dressed while playing in the outdoor area.

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 service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid responder for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid box, items were within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes / bag was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school 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 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)(a) A written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was in 16/11/2023.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 19/11/2023.
- The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 01/09/2023.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.