

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



Tusla I.D: TU2021CC005

Name of Service: Blarney Montessori School

Address of Service: Cluain Ard
Monacnappa
Blarney
Co. Cork

Email Address: blarneymontessorischool@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Ms. Claire Connolly and Ms. Marguerite Morley

Type of Proposed Service:	Sessional	X	Part-Time		Drop-In	
	Full Day Care		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed service type: Sessional
Proposed Number of Children: 33
Registered service: Registered sessional service for 33 children

Date of Inspection: 0 6 0 8 2 0 2 1

Inspection Undertaken by: Ms. V. McCarthy
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building,
St Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Sessional service for 33 children
Date of Registration: 20th August 2021

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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	Blarney Montessori School proposes to operate as an Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) sessional service catering for 33 children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. The service will be privately operated and the proposed hours of operation are 9.30am to 12.30.
Premises	Blarney Montessori School proposes to operate from a detached 1 storey building situated in a newly built residential development outside of Blarney village. The providers proposes to have use of 2 care rooms namely the Garden room and the Castle room. There are 4 toilets provided off the reception area for use by the children and 1 toilet solely for use by the adults. The proposed service will have access to a secured outdoor play area that is situated to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	It is proposed that 1 of the providers who has a qualification in child care will be service based and will work directly with the children. It is proposed that once the registration has been approved by the Early Years Registration office, more adults with child care qualifications will be employed at the service.
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 two themes; Governance, and Safety.</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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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>
Acknowledgement	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the 2 proposed providers who were 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service has a record of the proposed person in charge displayed 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) It is proposed that more than 1 adult will be assigned to the service and all will work directly with the early years children. The Inspector was informed that the adult child ratio of 1:11 in each care room would be adhered to.

(8)(b) Not applicable as this is not a child-minder service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a single-handedly operated service.

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—

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- (a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, or
- (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.
- (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 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, or
 - (b) where no such space is provided, the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.
- (4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.
- (5) Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph (4), the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1)(a) There are low shelving units provided in both care rooms that will be accessible to the children. The shelves are stocked with a selection of play equipment and materials that are all functioning, easily cleaned and maintained in good condition.
- (b) There is a designated rest area for use by children provided in each care room consisting of mats and soft seats.
- (2)(a) The proposed provider submitted this application after 30th June 2016 to be sanctioned to operate as a sessional preschool and has use of an outdoor play area that is located to the rear of the building.
- (b) Not applicable as the proposed service has not moved premises.
- (3)(a) There is a secured outdoor play area to the rear of the premises available for the children.
- (3)(b) Not applicable as this service will have daily access to a designated outdoor play area.
- (4) Not applicable as this will not be a temporary service.
- (5) Not applicable as this will not be a temporary 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 requirements have been met.

- The main door to the premises is secured to prevent the unauthorised access of a person or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- Individual hooks are provided in the reception area for the storage of each child’s coat and personal belongings.
- A fridge is available in each care room to store perishable foods that will be provided by the children’s respective parents and guardians.
- Any proposed medications will be stored on a high shelf in each care room out of children’s reach.
- The first aid box is positioned on a high shelf in the office out of children’s reach.
- Visibility strips are provided on all low lying glass doors.
- There are 2 windows in the Garden room and 4 windows in the Castle room that are each fitted with restrictors and therefore can be opened safely to ventilate the care rooms. Each of the 4 children’s toilet cubicles and 1 adult toilet cubicle has a high window that can be opened to ventilate the spaces.
- The cleaning agents are stored on high shelves out of children’s reach.
- The low presses under the sinks in the care rooms have been fitted with locks so that children cannot access them.
- The outdoor play area is surrounded by high fencing and a secured gate.
- The ceiling strip lights have been provided with covers.
- The fire doors are maintained unobstructed.
- There are hand sanitizer containers fixed to the walls at the entrance to the building and inside each carer room.
- The proposed providers have carried out training regarding the signs and symptoms of Covid-19 and understand that no adult should have any Covid-19 related sickness when working in a child care facility.
- The office that is located near an exit door has been identified as the proposed isolation area should an adult or child develop signs and symptoms of Covid-19 and require monitoring whilst the adult/child waits to leave the premises. There is a stock of personal protective equipment (PPE) available in the office for use if required.
- A supply of warm water, liquid soap, paper towels and hand sanitizer are available throughout the service.
- The proposed providers are aware of the correct measures for coughing and sneezing and therefore can help children follow this process if required. A box of disposable tissues is available in the care room.
- All toys, materials, equipment and furniture set up in both care rooms are clean, functioning and in good condition.

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- Thermostatically controlled hot water for safe hand washing is provided at each wash hand basin. The water temperature was recorded at 37.8°C during the inspection. Liquid soap, paper towels and pedal bins with lids are provided in each of the children’s 4 toilet cubicles, 1 adult’s toilet and in each of the 2 care rooms
- Age appropriate posters are displayed to help the children adapt to good hand hygiene practices and other measures related to Covid-19.

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) A copy of an up to date certificate in First Aid Response (FAR) training is available in respect of 1 of the proposed providers who will working at this premises.

(2)(a) (b) There is a suitably equipped first aid box available on the premises out of children’s reach.

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) The requirement is met in relation to the provision of a form for recording the proposed monthly fire drills.

(1)(b) A record of the number and type of fire fighting equipment is available on file. Records are available to demonstrate that the fire equipment was serviced in July 2021 and that the wired smoke alarm was newly installed on the premises in July 2021.

(4) A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in each of the 2 care rooms.

The service has signage displayed in the outdoor play area for a marked designated assembly point in the event of a fire.

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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.

Records regarding insurance cover for a sessional service catering for 36 children is available on file. The records referred to details the expiry date, public liability and cover for fire and theft.

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) The service proposes to operate out of 2 care rooms that are situated in a 1 storey detached purpose built building located in a newly developed residential area. There was no mould or cracks visible on the walls, ceilings or floors of the building during the inspection.

(b) The entrance door to the premises is secured to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the leaving of an unsupervised child. The outdoor play area is surrounded by high fencing and a secured gate. It is proposed that medicines will be stored on high shelves and that the first aid box will be stored in the office out of children's reach.

(c) The proposed care rooms are provided with natural light by means of windows. Adequate ceiling lighting is provided in the form of fluorescent lights that are covered by protective covers. Adequate ventilation is provided by means of windows in each care room and toilets that can be opened easily. The premise is supplied with underfloor heating. The playroom air temperature was recorded at 18°C on the day of the inspection.

(d) Cleaning schedules are available and all the play materials, equipment and furniture were noted to be clean and in good condition during the inspection.

(e) There are 4 toilets and 4 wash hand basins adjacent to the reception area for children's use and 1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin located off the reception area available for use by the adults. The proposed providers informed the inspector that the service proposes to cater only for children that will be toilet trained and therefore no nappy changing facilities are provided. The service is serviced by a public water and sewage system.

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.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
 - (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 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 available in the proposed care rooms for the work, play and movement of 33 early years children.
- (2) The proposed Castle room was measured at 32.76 square metres. The proposed Garden room was measured at 28.5 square metres.
- (3)(4) It is proposed in the application form submitted by the proposed providers that the service would accommodate children attending Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) sessional service. The service has adequate floor space to accommodate 33 children attending Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) sessional service.
- (5) Not applicable as this is not a temporary service.