

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2021GY007

Name of Service St Therese Montessori Preschool

Address of Service: Kilrickle National school, Wallscourt, Loughrea, Co. Galway
H62 KC82

Email Address: Patriciakenny@live.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Patricia Kenny

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: Change in the number of children from 11 to 20 children.
Change in Age Profile from 3-6 years to 2-6 years

Proposed Number of Children: 20

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in the number of children from 11 to 20 children
Change in Age Profile from 3-6 years to 2-6 years

Registered change: Change in the number of children from 11 to 20 children
Change in Age Profile from 3-6 years to 2-6 years

Date of Inspection: 0 4 0 9 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: A. Kennedy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency,
Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co
Roscommon

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 20 Children
Date of Registration	3rd October 2024

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	<p>St. Thérèse Montessori preschool is located in a room of the local primary school in Kilrikle.</p> <p>It offers an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) sessional programme from 09:30hrs to 12:30hrs from Monday to Friday. The service is for children aged between 2 years and 8 months to 6 years. The service is presently registered to cater for eleven children, and it is proposing to cater for 20 children at any one time.</p> <p>The ethos of the service is for a child centred play based preschool curriculum focusing on the Montessori pedagogy.</p>
Premises	<p>The preschool operates from the ground floor of the primary school in Kilrikle village, near the town of Loughrea, Co. Galway. The children have access to various secure outdoor play areas to the back and sides of the preschool, for children’s play activities, fresh air, and exploration.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider was on the premises on the day of the inspection. The registered provider works directly with the children and has employed an additional staff member to work on the premises. The registered provider and the second adult hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 to level 7 on the National Qualifications Framework, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. Both adults have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.</p>
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>

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was 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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement was met.

There is a designated person in charge and a named person available to deputise in the service as needed.

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:

The requirement was met.

(1) It is proposed that there will be an adequate number of staff working directly with the pre-school children. The proposed two staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5 to level 7, in Early Childhood Care and Education. It is proposed that an additional adult will be available as childcare relief.

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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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a)

The design, organization, and resourcing of the indoor and outdoor environment will be able to support each child’s wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service.

The playroom was designed and arranged to

- maintain a space that was clean, organized, and free of clutter,
- divided into areas that were supplied with materials organized in a way to support children’s play, development, and learning,
- give all children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development.

The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was thereby readily accessible to the proposed pre-school children.

The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, and designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.

There were opportunities for

- Imaginary play with dress up clothing, role play, construction area with a selection of tools and blocks and a kitchen/home area with food items and accessories.

There was a selection of transport vehicles, mark making, play animals, musical instruments and reading materials.

- Creative play with art and craft materials, paper, paint, glue, glitter, pencils, crayons and stencils.

- Language and literacy play with visual aids, books, a selection of story bags on “Twinkle twinkle little star”, “Old Mac Donald had a farm”, “The three little pigs” and “Five little ducks”, matching games, flash cards, finger and hand puppets and felt art.
- Gross motor play with a parachute and selection of balls, footballs, tractors, and push cars in the outdoor play areas.
- Sensory play with sand, water, play dough, sensory toys, and jigsaws and puzzles.

Displayed on the walls was a notice board for children’s art and craft work and posters on the letters of the alphabet, a weather chart and numbers.

The registered provider advised that toys, materials, and equipment would be rotated on a seasonal theme basis.

(1)(b)

A rest quiet area was provided in the form of soft seating with cushions and blankets to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose too.

Outdoor area

The designated outdoor play areas were located to the rear of the premises.

The registered provider advised that the outdoor areas were an extension of the indoor learning environment.

The registered provider advised that the children would have the opportunity to be outside as often as possible, in all weather conditions.

The children attending would wear sunscreen and or suitable all-weather clothing as required.

The area was securely fenced and covered with tarmacadam, astroturf and concrete. Play equipment and materials provided in the outdoor areas would support a range of physically energetic activities and play experiences. There were push cars, bikes and trikes, scooters, tractors, sand and water play, and a selection of ball games, a water wall and chalk boards.

Planting opportunities are provided with the provision of a large poly tunnel and a raised bed for planting flowers and vegetables. the registered provider advised that the children would be supplied with helmets when using the balancing bikes, trikes and tractors in the tarmacadam 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:

The requirements were met.

The service had a healthy eating policy.

- From 11.00hrs to 11.30hrs, it is proposed that parents and guardians will provide food for their child’s morning snack time.
- Drinks of milk and water will be offered for each child’s meal and snack time.
- The registered provider advised that a drinks table will be available to allow the proposed children the opportunity to ‘self-serve’ their drinks.

Perishable items from children’s lunch boxes will be stored in a designated fridge.

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:

General Safety

The designated entrance was secure to prevent unauthorized entry and prevent unsupervised children leaving the pre-school.

The staff only area was secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.

The external play areas were secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorized persons could not enter the area.

Electric cables were secured and inaccessible to the pre-school child.

The fire doors were unobstructed.

All cleaning agents were stored in a locked press inaccessible to the children.

Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing without risk of scalding the children, was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.

Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.

The openable windows were high and thereby inaccessible to a child.

The playroom temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.

Infection Control

Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and a roll towel dispenser.

The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

The registered provider advised that the outdoor play equipment would be cleaned prior to/ after a child's use, with documented records maintained.

A refrigerator was provided in the playroom for the storage of perishable foods.

The playroom was observed to be kept adequately ventilated whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.

There was a cleaning schedule template and cleaning records for the materials, equipment, and furnishings.

Waste would be disposed of in the sanitary area and playroom in foot operated pedaled lidded bins and thereby inaccessible to the pre-school children.

Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing without risk of scalding the children, was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.

Safe sleep

Adequate facilities for rest were provided as the playroom has soft seating area with a couch, wipeable seats, seating, and matting to allow children to rest and relax when required.

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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) One adult had a certificate of completion of First Aid Responder (FAR) training with an expiry of the 5th of September 2025.

The registered provider provided confirmation of booking of the second adult to complete the FAR training on 23rd and 24th of September 2024.

- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and in an easily accessible conspicuous position in the preschool room. The first aid box was readily available, with content items within 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) Copies of templates for recording monthly fire drills were in place.

(b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file.

Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated 21st of September 2023.

Records indicated that the last annual maintenance certificate for the smoke and fire detection system was dated 1st of October 2023.

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(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed for adults on the notice board in the playroom and a child friendly evacuation procedure was displayed at child height in the playroom.

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.

The service had insurance quotation with a commencement date of 02/09/2024 which was for a sessional service for 22 children and included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance 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:

(a) From a visual inspection the playroom was of sound and stable, structure and there were no observable indications of defects.

(b) The playroom and the outdoor play areas were safe and secure. The main entrance door to the premises had a securing mechanism in place. The two internal

doors in the playroom had a securing mechanism fitted to prevent children from leaving the playroom unnoticed.

(c) There was natural lighting in the playroom from the three high openable windows on an outer wall. There were windows in the sanitary areas.

The playroom was well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors.

The pre-school service was adequately lit with natural light provided from three openable windows and six internal panes in addition to artificial lights on the playroom ceiling. The four tube light fittings in the playroom and the light fittings in the sanitary areas had protective covers in place.

The radiators were connected to an oil heating system.

(d) In the playroom, the play and work equipment were clean and in good repair.

Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from / inaccessible to the pre-school children.

There was evidence that regular checks would be carried out by the registered provider on rodent proofing. Evidence was provided to advise a pest control check was last carried out of 5th of June 2024.

(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.

There were two designated children's toilets with two designated children's 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed play area for the free movement of children to work, rest, learn, and play.

The registered provider of the sessional pre-school service ensured that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space was available for each child attending the service. The square meters of the room 42.9 square meters.

The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children.

The measurement of floor space was 42.9 square meters, thereby providing adequate floor space to accommodate 20 children ensuring a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service.