

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2023DR004
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Name of Service:	St. Nicholas Montessori Blackrock
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Address of Service:	Pastoral Centre, Newtown Park Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94 VF74
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Email Address:	Mary.farrelly@smsi.ie
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Nicholas Breakwell
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type:	Part time & Sessional
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Proposed Number of Children:	22
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection	Service for 22 children aged 3 to 6 years on a sessional and part-time care basis. Operating between 09:00 and 14:00 Monday to Friday, 38 weeks per year. A sessional service will take place from 09:00 to 12:30.
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Registered service:	Registered Part Time / Sessional Service for 22 children.
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Date of Inspection:	1	8	0	8	2	0	2	3
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Inspection Undertaken by:	R. Brien
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 X01F.
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time / Sessional Service for 22 children.
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Date of Registration:	31 st August 2023.
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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	St. Nicholas Montessori Blackrock is a proposed early years service offering sessional and part-time care to children aged between 3 to 6 years. The provider proposes to accommodate 22 children and operate Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 14:00 for 38 weeks of the year. The provider proposes to operate the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 09:00 to 12:30.
Premises	The provider proposes to operate the service from a room within a multipurpose pastoral centre in an urban residential area in south Dublin. Sanitary facilities for use by the pre-school children are located adjacent to the care room. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is situated on the premises with a blend of paving and artificial grass surfacing.
Staffing	The registered provider has appointed a proposed designated person in charge in the service and a second named person to deputise in their absence.
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 four 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 the registering application. 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 cooperation of the proposed provider who was present on the day of the inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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:	Requirement partially met. (1)(a) The registered provider has appointed a designated person in charge.
Requirement not met:	(1)(a) The registered provider has not yet appointed a named person who is able to deputise in the absence of the designated person in charge.
Response from Provider:	An additional staff member is now engaged to work at St. Nicholas Newtownpark.
Summary Comment:	The requirement has been met.

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 not met:	(1) The proposed provider stated that a minimum of two staff members will be on the premises at all times, however this was not evidenced by a proposed staffing roster for the service. (8)(b) Not applicable as the proposed service is not a childminding service. (c) Not applicable as this is not a sessional service that operates single handedly.
Response from Provider:	School will operate from 9:00 to 12:30 until such time as there is enough interest from parents in the extended day. If we do extend the day to 14:00 we will employ a third teacher.
Summary Comment:	The requirement has been met.

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—
- (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, 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.

Requirement met:	<p>Requirement partially met</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The care room was bright and spacious and laid out with Montessori equipment on open, low level shelving units. Appropriately sized tables and chairs were available for table-top activities.</p> <p>The outdoor area was located to the side of the premises and had paving and artificial grass surfacing. It is acknowledged that the proposed provider agreed to develop the outdoor area to support children’s learning and development.</p> <p>(2)(a)</p> <p>The service had a suitable designated outdoor area at the side of the premises. The gate to enter or exit this area were secured to prevent unauthorised entry or a child leaving unsupervised. The area was well maintained and no hazards were observed.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(1)(a)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The range of materials within the care room were inadequate for the effective provision of challenging, diverse, creative and enriching experiences for children to promote all areas of development. Equipment and materials for sensory play, imaginative and role play, small world materials and construction materials were not available. <p>(1)(b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. One soft chair was available in the rest area in the room. This area required development to adequately meet the needs of the children who will be attending. 3. The service did not have facilities for a child to sleep which may be required for younger children attending on a full-day-care basis. There were no beds/sleep mats or linen available.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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Response from Provider:	Outdoor play equipment has been purchased for the outdoor environment. Materials have been added to the environment to encourage imaginary play, sensory play, construction etc. Rest area developed with a second comfortable chair, a soft rug and cushions. Soft mats provided for children who need to nap/rest.
Summary Comment:	The requirement has been met.

Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services

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 requirement has been met. The proposed provider stated that children will bring in their own lunch and water from home. Perishable foods will be stored in the refrigerator available in the care room. Drinking water will be available on the premises. The service will also provide a light snack such as fruit or crackers. A healthy eating policy was in place.
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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:	Requirement partially met. Appropriate measures had been taken to ensure the safety of the proposed children as outlined in the examples below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All external doors and gates were secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving the service unsupervised. • Emergency doors were unobstructed to allow for safe evacuation. • There were no loose cables or cords that could pose a risk of injury. • An infection control policy was in place to inform practice.
Requirement not met:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hot water in the sinks in the adjacent sanitary facility was not thermostatically controlled to remain below 43°C. The temperatures were recorded at 64°C posing a risk of injury to the children. 2. There was no facility to manage waste appropriately. There were no bins available in the care room or the sanitary accommodation.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water temperature had been set at higher temperature and has now been corrected. 2. Bins were purchased, one for the bathroom and one for the classroom.
Summary Comment:	The requirement has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid	
<p>(1) <i>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.</i></p> <p>(2) <i>A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times</i></p>	
Requirement not met:	<p>(1) There was no evidence available to demonstrate that a person trained in First Aid Responder would be available to the children attending the service at all times.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) There was no first aid box available in the proposed service.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(1) FAR training in place.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) First aid box purchased and available in care room.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirement has been met.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures	
<p>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—</p> <p>(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and</p> <p>(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.</p>	
Requirement met:	<p>(1)</p> <p>(b) The service had a certificate evidencing maintenance of the firefighting equipment dated December 2022.</p> <p>(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(1)(a)</p> <p>There was no documentation available to demonstrate the recording of fire drills.</p> <p>(1)(b)</p> <p>There were no up to date maintenance records available for the smoke alarm system.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(1)(a)</p> <p>Evidence of documentation to record fire drills submitted.</p> <p>(1)(b)</p> <p>Maintenance evidence submitted for smoke alarm system.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirement has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance	
<p>A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.</p>	
Requirement met:	Full insurance received for Part Time / Sessional for 22 children. Valid 01.09.23 to 31.08.24.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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 partially met.

- (a) The proposed new service is located within a multipurpose pastoral centre and the proposed provider confirmed that the premises is of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The proposed provider had taken appropriate measures to safeguard the premises. All external doors and gates were locked to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving unsupervised.
- (c) There was a good level of natural lighting in the care room with artificial lighting available as required. A working gas central heating system was available. One window could be opened to provide natural ventilation. Mechanical ventilation was available in the sanitary area. The room temperature was recorded at 20.9°C.
- (d) The premises and surrounding environment was clean and maintained as required.
- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities have been provided. There were two toilets and wash hand basins designated for children’s use. Four toilets and three wash hand basins have been provided for adults. There were no nappy changing facilities available as it is intended that all children attending the service will be toilet trained.

Requirement not met:

(d) There was no cleaning schedule in place and no cleaning equipment was available in the care room.

Response from Provider:

Evidence of cleaning schedule was submitted. Cleaning equipment available for care room.

Summary Comment:

The requirement has been met.

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)(2) An area of 43.2m² square metres was available in the care room. There was sufficient clear floor space to accommodate the proposed number of children in respect of their age range.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) There was adequate floor space to accommodate children who attend a concurrent sessional and part-time service. The registered provider proposes to have a maximum of 22 children attending on a sessional and part-time care basis at any one time.

(5) Not applicable.