

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2023DS002

**Name of Service** Evergreen Montessori

**Address of Service:** 16 Mountdown Road, Terenure, Dublin 12.

**Email Address:** Evergreenmontessori22@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Katie Healy and Sophie Hughes

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

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Increase of number of children from 27 to 30 children.
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	30
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	Change in number of children attending from 27 to 30
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in number of children attending from 27 to 30

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	7	0	8	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection undertaken by:** Fiona Carty  
**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:**  
 Floor 7, Brunel Building,  
 Heuston South Quarter,  
 Kilmainham, Dublin 8

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
**Proposed Change of Circumstance:**  
 The registered providers wish to increase the numbers of children attending from 27 to 30 children in the service with the additional children being accommodated in Room 1.

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional service for 30 children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	02 September 2024

<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
 An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	Child and Family Agency Act 2013 Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016	Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)	<b>1 of 8</b>

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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Evergreen Montessori is an existing full day care, part time and sessional childcare service located in a residential area in Terenure, Dublin 12. The registered providers are seeking to increase the number of children attending the service from 27 to 30 children daily. The service also offers a school age service. There is parking for cars located to the front of the building. The registered providers have the sole use of the building.
<b>Premises</b>	The premises are located in an adapted retail premises and includes 2 playrooms and sanitary accommodation for children and adults. An outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises. High-level heavy-duty fencing secure the perimeter of the outdoor area. The proposed additional children will be accommodated in Room 1 on a sessional basis.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service will be staffed by four adults. The registered providers will be involved in the day to day running of the service. Certification was provided to confirm that adults had childcare qualifications at minimum level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
<b>Methodology</b>	<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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers and staff who were present on the day of the inspection.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 and an adult currently working in the existing service will be able to deputise as required.

### 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:

(1)

An adequate number of adults will work directly in the pre-school service as it is proposed to care for a maximum of 30 pre-school children on a sessional basis aged between 2 years to 6 years between the hours of 9.00am and 12.30pm with three adults always present.

(8)

(b) Not applicable.

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—
- (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 (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 or
  - (b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service
- (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:**

- (1)
- (a)
- Room 1 will be for the sole use of the preschool children. It was equipped with toys and play equipment on open low-level shelving in areas of interest which included a home area, cosy area, construction and small world play. Low level tables and chairs were provided in the playroom for pre-school children to engage in tabletop activities. A wide variety of activities from the Montessori Method of Education including practical life activities, construction, and mathematical activities were available.
- (b) The care room had a rest area available. A large soft mat and cushions were available for preschool children to rest and opt out of activities.
- (2) An outdoor play area which was safely and securely fenced off by high level fencing was available. There are a number of seesaws, a mud kitchen, sand and water play and a small climbing frame with a slide. Access was gained directly from room 2 and the area was surrounded by perimeter fencing which prevented unauthorised access and egress.
- (3) Not applicable.

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(4) Not applicable.

(5) Not applicable.

### 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 requirement has been met.

The service will provide all food for the children who attend on both a sessional, part time and full-time basis. All snacks and the main meal will be prepared in the onsite kitchen and the amount of food provided will depend upon the service the children avail of. The hot meal was provided by an external provider and regenerated onsite. Refrigerators were available to store perishable items. A healthy eating policy was available and contained information on acceptable foods and foods not permitted in the 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 requirement has been met.

The doors at both the front and back entrance to the service had a lock system in place to secure the service against unauthorised access and to prevent unsupervised exit of pre-school children from the service. Children will be accepted into the service from the front entrance door and will be taken to the playroom by staff members during operational hours of the service. It was also noted that pre-school children will be collected from the front door after sessional hours by parents/guardians. The front door had a high-level lock in place and could only be opened from the inside. All blind cords were out of reach of children. All toys and furniture were in good condition and free from pinch and crush points and sharp edges. The registered provider had sole use of both the building and the outdoor play area for the preschool service. There was built in storage facilities available for storage throughout the service. The kitchen was locked and inaccessible to children.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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) There was evidence that both registered providers had current certification in First Aid Responder. Evidence was provided to the inspector on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box was provided. There was signage to indicate the location of first aid box. The first aid box was available to the children always attending the 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) A recording system was provided to maintain a record of monthly fire drills as conducted in the service.

(b) The maintenance record for firefighting equipment was available they were last serviced on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024. A maintenance record for smoke alarms confirmed that a maintenance service was conducted on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was posted in the communal hallway. A fire assembly point was located to the rear of the property.

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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.

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 31 children in daily attendance. Insurance for the service expires on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

### 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) There was no evidence of dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings. Windows in the care rooms appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and were both positioned and opened above child height. The registered providers confirmed that there are no structural defects with the premises.

(b) The heavy-duty floor covering throughout the rooms was well fitted and in a good state of repair and maintenance. Both the front and back exits to the building guarded against both unsupervised exit of children and unauthorised access to the building. The building was not used for any other purpose unrelated to childcare during operational hours of the service.

(c) The openable windows in the playroom which were located above child height ensured both adequate natural day lighting and ventilation in the care rooms. All ceiling light fittings in rooms were covered with shatterproof diffusers. Heating was provided with thermostatically controlled gas central heating system. The temperature recorded in the care rooms was between the recommended 18° Celsius and 22° Celsius.

(d) All walls and ceilings were finished with a washable paint and were smooth surfaced for easy cleaning purposes.

(e) There were three toilets and wash hand basins located in the service for the pre-school children in daily attendance. The water supply to wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled. Mechanical ventilation was available in all sanitary facilities.

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) An area of 41.87 sqm in Room 1 and 29.44 sqm in Room 2 provided adequate floor space for the proposed maximum number of 30 pre-school children in daily attendance on a sessional, part time and full-time basis.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) The area of the care room ensured adequate floor space for the proposed maximum number of pre-school children in daily attendance on a full daycare sessional and part time basis.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Not applicable.