

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2023DS002
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Name of Service:	Evergreen Montessori
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Address of Service:	16 Mountdown Road, Terenure, Dublin 12. D12 FY66
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Email Address:	evergreenmontessori22@gmail.com
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Sophie Hughes and Katie Healy
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" 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:	Full Day Care
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Proposed Number of Children:	27
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection:	The provider proposes to accommodate 27 children aged 2 to 6 years on a sessional, part-time and full-day-care basis. The provider proposes to operate between 8:30am and 6pm Monday to Friday, 48 weeks per year (closing for two weeks in August and two weeks in December).
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Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 27 Children
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Date of Inspection:	0	4	0	7	2	0	2	3
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Inspection Undertaken by:	E. Mulhern
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency Floor 7, 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 Full Day Care Service for 27 Children
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Date of Registration:	4 th August 2023
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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	Evergreen Montessori is a proposed early years service offering sessional, part-time and full-day care to children aged between two years and five months and six years. The providers propose to accommodate 27 children and operate Monday to Friday from 08:30am to 6:00pm - closing for two weeks in August and two weeks in December. The providers will operate the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9am to 12pm.
Premises	The providers propose to operate the service from the ground floor of a purpose adapted premises within a residential area. A school age service is currently in operation on the premises. There are two rooms with sanitary facilities available for the pre-school children. One of the rooms will be used by school aged children only in the afternoon. The premises also contains a kitchen and an office. An outdoor area is available for children at the rear of the premises.
Staffing	Both providers plan to work full-time in the service. The providers report that they will employ three staff members to work directly with the children following registration and plan to open in September 2023.
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 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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise.

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.

Requirement met:

(1) The providers told the inspector that they will both work full time in the service. They stated that they intend to employ three more staff members to work directly with the children once registration is approved. The providers demonstrated an understanding of the minimum number of adults required to work with children.

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:

(1)

(a) The rooms were laid out with suitable play equipment and materials appropriate to the age of children proposed to attend. These included home corners, arts and

	<p>crafts areas, sand and water play areas, Montessori materials, construction equipment and books. The rooms had storage cabinets which included an assortment of puzzles and table-top toys. An outdoor area was available with an all-weather surface. The area was equipped with ride-on toys and some outdoor toys. The area required development to incorporate natural elements and opportunities for risky play. It is acknowledged the providers agreed to develop the area further in this regard.</p> <p>(b) Areas were available within the rooms where children could rest or take a break from activities. These were situated in the corners of the rooms and consisted of soft matting and cushions.</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>(a) The service had an outdoor area at the rear of the premises which had an all-weather surface. The gates were secured to prevent unauthorised access.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(1)(b) 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. There was no blind in the room where children would attend on a full-day-care basis to dim the light or reduce glare if sleeping.</p> <p>(2)(a) The outdoor area was not adequately secured to prevent a child leaving unsupervised. There were two gates located between the outdoor area and the road. Both gates had low level latches which could be opened by a child.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>(1)(b) Beds have been purchased to facilitate the children in the full-day-care room if they need to sleep. Blinds have been installed in order to dim the light or reduce glare should any child need to sleep.</p> <p>(2)(a) The lock has been placed at a higher level out of children’s reach.</p>

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Summary Comment:	<p>Photographs and receipts were submitted to demonstrate the actions taken. The providers must ensure that any action taken in relation to locks is in keeping with fire regulations and does not pose a risk to evacuation in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>The requirements have been met.</p>
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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 service had a healthy eating policy. A sample menu was available outlining the foods that will be offered to the children. The providers told the inspector that the main meal will be prepared by an external company. All other meals and snacks will be provided by the service with the option for children attending on a sessional basis to bring non-perishable foods from home. They reported fruit will be always available and breakfast will be provided if required. Drinking water was available in both rooms. A kitchen with a fridge was available for the storage and preparation of food.

The requirement has been met.

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:

Measures had been taken to provide for the safety of children as outlined in the examples below.

- Entrances were secured to prevent unauthorized access.
- Emergency doors were unobstructed.
- Play equipment and furniture was in good working order.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children. • Cables and cords were appropriately secured. • Hot water was thermostatically controlled and did not exceed 43° Celsius.
Requirement not met:	<p>1. The radiators in room 1 and the adjoining sanitary facility were not thermostatically controlled to remain below 50°C or did not have a radiator cover to prevent children from accessing. The temperatures were recorded at 58 - 63°C posing a risk of a burn injury.</p> <p>2. There was no sign available in the outdoor area to indicate where to assemble in the case of a fire.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>1. A plumber has regulated the temperature of the radiators so they do not rise above 50°C.</p> <p>2. An assembly point was added at the back of the service to indicate where to assemble in the event of a fire.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>Supporting photographs and documents were submitted in keeping with the actions stated.</p> <p>The requirement has been met.</p>

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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:

- (1) Certificates were available evidencing a person trained in first aid for children would be always available to the children.
- (2)
- (a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored conspicuously within reach of adults.
 - (b) The first aid boxes were available for use within the premises.

The requirement has been met.

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:

- (1)
- (a) The providers were aware of the requirement to undertake and record fire drills. A template was available for this purpose.
 - (b) The service had a certificate regarding the maintenance of the firefighting equipment dated 2 February 2023. A fire alarm commissioning certificate was available dated 15 February 2023.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous positions in the service.

The requirement has been met.

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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:

A certificate of insurance was available. The insurance is valid from 28 March 2023 to 27 March 2024.
The requirement has been met.

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) The premises had been purposely renovated and appeared to be in good condition. The providers confirmed that there were no known issues with the structure of the premises.
- (b) The premises were observed to be safe and secure apart from the non-compliance outlined under regulations 20(2)(a) and 23. Access was possible by authorised entry only.
- (c) There was a good level of natural lighting with artificial lighting available if required. A working gas central heating system was available. Windows could be opened to provide natural ventilation. Mechanical ventilation was available in the sanitary areas. The room temperatures were recorded at 20° Celsius.
- (d) The premises was newly renovated and in good, clean condition. Materials and equipment were newly purchased. Cleaning schedules and cleaning equipment were available for use.

	(e) Sanitary facilities were available next to each room. These consisted of three toilets and three wash-hand basins. Wash-hand basins were equipped with warm water and liquid soap. Separate sanitary facilities were available for staff.
Requirement not met:	(e) 1. Two of the toilets that were situated in the same room did not have any cubicle or partitions to allow for privacy. 2. There was no paper towel dispenser in one of the sanitary areas for hand drying. 3. One of the toilet lids was broken and needed to be replaced. 4. There were no toilet paper dispensers/holders available for two toilets.
Response from Provider:	1. A partition was added in between the toilets to provide privacy. 2. A paper towel dispenser was added in the toilet. 3. The toilet lid was replaced. 4. Two toilet paper dispensers/holders were installed in the toilets.
Summary Comment:	Photographs were submitted in keeping with the actions stated. 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.*

Requirement met:	(1) & (2) The provider proposes to accommodate 27 children aged 2-6 on a sessional, part-time and full-day-care basis. The rooms were measured and there was sufficient clear floor space to accommodate the proposed number of children in respect of their age range. The requirement has been met.
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