

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023KE008		
Name of Service:	Moyglare Hall Montessori		
Address of Service:	29 The Walk, Moyglare Hall, Maynooth, Co. Kildare		
Eircode:	W23 TH5W		
Name of Registered Provider:	Emma O'Keeffe, Donna Westphal		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	07/12/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM No.
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91X38W.		
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan		
Title:	Early Years Inspector		
Authority to Inspect			
The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).			
Conditions if applicable	n/a		

Description of service

Moyglare Hall Montessori provides sessional childcare and education for children aged 2 to 6 years of age.

The hours of operation are between 8:30am - 12:00hours and 12:30 – 16:00 hours Monday-Friday for 38 weeks of the school year.

The premises is located in a ground floor converted commercial unit located in a housing development on the outskirts of Maynooth, Co. Kildare. The accommodation consists of a pre-school room with adjoining sanitary facilities. A secured and enclosed outdoor area is available at the side of the service.

Staffing

The two registered providers were working in the service on the day of the inspection, and both have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education as per the National Framework of Qualifications.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was announced and focused on the area of governance and health, welfare and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings.

Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re-occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers and children who were 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,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- Three staff records were reviewed.
- (2)
- (a) Two written and verified past employer references were available in respect of two adults and one written and verified past employer reference was available in respect of one adult whose records were reviewed.
- (b) One written and verified reference from a reputable source other than a past employer was available in respect of one adult whose record was reviewed
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults whose records were reviewed.
- (d) Not applicable, as no adult had resided outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) Three adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) There were seventeen children attending the service being supervised directly by two adults.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the morning.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

Basic needs of children:

The service promoted a healthy eating policy. The children's snacks were stored in the fridge. Lunches were healthy and included sandwiches, fruit, yogurt, carrot sticks, crackers and cheese. Water was freely available throughout the morning to the children to self-serve. The children were encouraged to be independent when attending to their belongings, opening their lunch bags, washing their hands and going to the toilet.

The staff members working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours. Children were spoken to in a kind and respectful manner. Their first names were used, appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were observed being used during all interactions.

Supporting relationships around children:

Staff members were observed being respectful, gentle and kind towards the children in their care and each child was listened to and given time to chat and express their thoughts and feelings.

Staff members were observed sitting with the children at mealtimes and engaging them in conversation which ensured that the experience was relaxed and sociable.

Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection times. A closed electronic communication system was used for direct messaging with parents. The registered providers emailed a monthly newsletter which incorporated the monthly learning themes, celebrations and the activities that the children had completed, to parents.

Face to face meetings can be arranged for parents/guardians as necessary, email and telephone contact are also used as alternative methods of contact.

Physical and material environment:

The physical and material environments in the care room was comfortable, inviting and laid out to accommodate the needs of all children. Defined areas of interest were observed. These included a library and rest area combined, a home corner, hair salon, area with blocks, magnets, connecting toys, peg boards, puzzles and jigsaws, a construction area, small world toys and materials, mark making materials, arts and crafts, musical instruments, Montessori equipment and playdough on the day of the inspection.

All equipment and materials were accessible to the children and grouped to encourage children to use them independently. Low level chairs and tables were available to the children for meals and tabletop activities.

The secured outdoor area was located at the front of the premises. The outdoor space was small but well equipped and presented to enable two groups of eleven children to comfortably use it at any one time. Equipment included sand / water trays with associative equipment to enable children to extend their play, a play house, a mud kitchen, a growing area with the spring bulbs that the children had planted, an art and chalk easel with paints and aprons for the children to use and a table and chairs for table top activities.

Programme of activities:

On the day of the inspection, the children were facilitated to make their own choice in selecting play equipment and activities that they wished to engage with. The staff members supported the children with their activities and did not interfere in the play. The routine was child led and responsive to the children's interests.