

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023KY003				
Name of Service:	Scoil na nÓg Montessori				
Address of Service:	Glens South, Dingle, Co. Kerry				
Eircode:	V92 DX85				
Name of Registered Provider:	Georgina Diver				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	09/09/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>12</td> <td>PM</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </table>	AM	12	PM	9
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.				
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy				
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
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Description of service

Scoil na nÓg is a private early years service that is registered to provide full day and sessional care for children aged between the age of 2 years and 6 years. Currently the service provide care for children aged between 2 years 6 months and 5 years. The service is registered as operating between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:30pm Monday to Friday inclusive. The service operates from a single playroom in the national school building with designated outdoor areas available and accessible each day to the children attending.

Staffing

There are 3 adults employed in the service, of whom 1 is the registered provider.

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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspections 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.

Additional Information

Since the last inspection the service has extended the playroom. The registered provider had commenced the proposed change in circumstances process to inform the inspectorate of the additional space and for an increase in the number of children to be accommodated in the service.

The increase in the number of children to be accommodated in the service to 18 has been approved.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff 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) The registered provider had ensured that both a designated person in charge and a deputy person in charge was assigned to the setting.
 - (b) When the unannounced inspection commenced, the registered provider and the named deputy were on duty at the service.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to 2 adults who were employed in the service since the last inspection on 04/12/2023 were the subject of this inspection.
- (a) There were 4 written validated references on file from a previous employer.
 - (b) Not applicable, the references on file were from a previous employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 2 adults. Garda vetting renewal was not required for the remaining 1 adult working in the service.

(d) Police vetting was on file for 1 adult who has resided outside of the jurisdiction.

(4) The 2 staff members had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) with the certifications on file in respect of same.

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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did ensure that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times.

(2) There were 3 adults caring for 12 children aged between 2 years 6 months to 5 years, of which 3 children were attending on a sessional basis, and 8 children were attending on a part-time full day care basis.

The adult child ration was correct.

(8)(a) The registered provider did ensure that 2 adults are on the premises during the hours of operation.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

The registered provider did ensure that the following information was kept in writing: -

- (h) details of daily attendance by each pre-school child attending including the arrival and departure time.
- (i) details of the staff roster on a daily basis including the arrival and departure time.
- (j) Completed records were maintained of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service.
- (k) Completed records were maintained of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school attending the service.

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

- Healthy eating is promoted in the service in line with the Healthy Eating Policy of the service.
- The meals and snacks are provided by the parents of the children attending.
- The meals and snacks are served at regular times during the children's time spent in the service.
- There was plenty of time allocated to the mealtimes observed on inspection with the staff assisting the children as was needed.
- The crockery and cutlery provided by the service was clean and dry and suitable for the children's age and stage of development.
- The children who had finished eating before others went to play with the play materials and equipment that were available and accessible on the low-level open shelving in the room.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets located outside the playroom and the inspector observed the staff were on hand to provide help when required and to remind children to wash and dry their hands after using the toilet.
- The children's individual toiletry needs were cared for during the session in a sensitive caring manner. The inspector observed the staff to encourage the children to become more independent in using the toilet, allowing them to take their time, and praising them for their efforts made.
- The children enjoyed time playing outdoors in both the spacious playground used at alternat times to the school aged children and the designated outdoor area directly outside the playroom allocated to them.
- The children were observed having one meal in the designated outdoor area outside the playroom, sitting on the low-level benches provided.
- The staff were observed to be kind and caring towards the children in their care. They were mindful and supportive of children as they were settling into the setting, for some children after the summer recess and some children that were new to the service.

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.

Compliance Information

- The parents of the children attending provide all food served in the service for the children.
- The food is prepared and re-heated as applicable in the kitchenette by a designated staff member.
- On the day of the inspection 2 mealtimes were observed. The food observed at the mealtimes, that was morning snack and lunch included for example sandwiches, yogurts, a selection of fruit, spaghetti Bolognese, and pasta dishes with vegetables.
- The children had water to drink at the mealtimes, the water was available to them throughout the session in their individual drink's bottles that were stored on a low level trolley in the playroom.
- The children's perishable food items were individually labelled and stored in the fridge in the kitchenette.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that there were staff available at all times with appropriate first aid responder (FAR) training. The FAR certifications on file indicated that 3 staff members held current up to date training.

(2) (a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available to the children attending. The box was stored out of the reach of the children in the playroom.

(b) The first aid equipment was available to the children at all times.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -

(a) A template to record each fire drill that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place to the summer recess on 28.6.'24. It was evident that monthly fire drills took place in the service from the records maintained.

- (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm.
The records on file demonstrated the last check for the smoke alarms was 26.06.'24 and for the firefighting equipment was 28.05.'24.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was furnished to the inspector.

The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured.
- the category of insurance cover for the service, that is full day care.
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 20 children.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'25.