

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023KY003
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Name of Service:	Scoil na nÓg Montessori
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Address of Service:	Glens South, Dingle, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V92 DX85
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Name of Registered Provider:	Georgina Diver
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	04/12/2023
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No of pre-school children:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> 09 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> None
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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 care for children aged between the age of 2 years and 6 years. Currently the service provide care for children aged between 2 years 8 months and 5 years. The service is registered as operating between the hours of 9:00 am and 12:30pm Monday to Friday inclusive. The service operates from a single playroom in the national school building.

Staffing

There are 5 adults employed in the service, of whom 1 is the registered provider , 2 adults to provide relief cover and 2 adults employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme.

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/ premises and facilities.

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 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 is the designated person in charge and there is a named person who can deputize as required. The registered provider was available on the premise to facilitate the inspection process.
- (b) At all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the registered provider and the named deputy are on the premises.

(2) The inspector confirmed with the registered provider that 5 adults were employed in the service, the recruitment records for these 5 adults were reviewed.

- (a) 9 written validated references were on file from a past employer.
- (b) 1 written validated reference was on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file for each of the 5 adults.
- (d) Police Vetting was on file in respect of 1 adult who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The 5 adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 6 and above.

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.

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

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service 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.

Compliance Information

- (1) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children present.
- (3) The children attending the service on the day of inspection were aged between 3 and 4 years. There were 2 adults caring for 9 children attending the service on a sessional basis.
- The adult child ratio was correct.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of 11 records were inspected, they were found to have the required detail as per(a) to (i) inclusive.

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

- The adults caring for the children on the day of the inspection were observed to be kind, caring and respectful towards the children.
- The children had access to a variety of toys on the low-level open shelving and on the floor.
- The children were observed happily engaging in various play activities that included for example water play, tabletop activities such as arts and crafts, playing with the play kitchen and associated utensils and with the dolls and the blocks.
- The adults were observed reminding children to “share and be nice to their friends” and comforting children in a kind and meaningful manner as the need arose.
- The children had unlimited access to the toilets that were located outside of the playroom. The adults were observed supervising and assisting children as was required when using the toilet and with hand washing afterwards.
- The children’s individual toileting needs were met during the session in a discreet manner within the sanitary accommodation facilities.
- The parents/guardians of the children attending the service provide the food for the mealtime.
- Drinking water is available on the premises. The children had access to their re-fillable drinks bottles on a low-level shelf in the playroom, the inspector observed some of the children helped themselves to their individually labelled bottles during the session.
- The food served included a variety of sandwiches, crackers and fruit. There are 2 mealtimes offered at 10:30 and 12 mid-day.
- The children had free movement within the playroom during the inspection.
- The children were given the choice of playing indoors or going to the designated outdoor play area located directly outside the entrance door to the premise.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

- The service communicates with parents by” Whats App”, email, verbally at drop-off and collection times.
- The registered provider informed the inspector that the parents are furnished with “snippets of the day via “Whats App” consisting of photographs and videos of the children participating in the various activities during the session, information on community groups and events and the parents handbook.
- The designated rest area in the playroom was furnished with matting, cushions, soft toys, the library area nearby and the children’s family photographs displayed at their eye-level.

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.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The main entrance door to the premise was secure.
- The outdoor play area used on inspection was secured with fencing and a gate to prevent children exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons entering the area.
- The inspector observed the adults’ issuing reminders to the children to remain seated and take care when using the scissors for arts and crafts activities.

Infection Control:

- The children washed their hands prior to eating and after using the toilet with the adults on hand to supervise and provide help as was required.

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*
 - (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) The fire drills which had been undertaken at the service were recorded and maintained on file. The most recent fire drill conducted was dated 28.11.2023.
 - (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the playroom.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

Compliance Information

- (c) The premise was adequately heated, the air temperature of the playroom was recorded at 19.6 degrees Celsius, the air temperature of sanitary accommodation rooms was 19.4 to 19.8 degrees Celsius. The openable windows in the playroom and sanitary accommodation provided adequate ventilation.