

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024CC005

Name of Service: The Miles Montessori and Day Care

Address of Service: The Miles, New Road, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

Email Address: themilesmontessori@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Sinead Brady

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input 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: Part time, sessional

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)
Part time Sessional service for 22 children, aged two to six years. Morning hours of operation from 9.00am to 2.00pm and afternoon hours of operation from 12.30pm to 5.30pm.

Registered service: Registered Part time Sessional service for 22 children.

Date of Inspection: 2 9 0 7 2 0 2 4

Inspection Undertaken by: D Prendergast

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:
Early Years Inspectorate
Administration Building
St Mary's Health Campus
Gurrabraher
Cork

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part time Sessional Service 22 children.
Date of Registration:	06 th August 2024.

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	The Miles Montessori and Day Care proposes to provide sessional and part time care and education for children aged two to six years. It is proposed that the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme will be facilitated over 38 weeks of the year, with two daily sessional services; the first from 9.00am to 12.00pm and the second between 12.30pm and 3.30pm. Proposed daily opening hours are from 9.00am to 5.30pm, including part time hours from 9.00am to 2.00pm and from 12.30pm to 5.30pm.
Premises	The proposed early years service is situated in a residential estate, in the town of Clonakilty in Co. Cork. The premises consists of a purpose built, single storey, detached building. There is one proposed care room, with adjoining child sanitary facilities, along with a staff sanitary facility, an office and a store room. An enclosed outdoor play area is provided at the rear of the premises and is directly accessible from the main care room.
Staffing	It is proposed that three adults will be employed at the setting, including the registered provider, who will also be based at the service.
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>

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Acknowledgement	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and the deputy person in charge, 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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The proposed person in charge of operating the early years service will be the registered provider and a deputy person in charge has also been appointed. A record of this information is displayed in the main care room.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) It is proposed that three adults will work directly with up to 22 children, aged 2 to 6 years, who will attend the sessional service. Some of these children will also attend the part time service. The registered provider has advised that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children attending part time care, depending on the number and age range of children availing of said service and has confirmed that there will be a minimum of two adults on the premises at all times.</p>
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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) Indoor play and exploration within the care room will be facilitated through the provision of developmentally appropriate play resources, such as jigsaws, books, art and craft supplies, dolls, hand held vehicles and a play kitchen.

Outdoor play materials include obstacle course equipment, a large parachute, mark making materials and bubbles. Additional fixed outdoor equipment has also been purchased.

(b) Adequate rest facilities are available for children; several cosy areas, which include soft furnishings and teepees, are incorporated into the care room.

A supply of five stackable beds and linen is provided for any child that may require sleep while in attendance.

(2)

(a) There is an outdoor play area available for children’s use at the rear of the premises. This play space is observed to be suitable, safe and is enclosed by a combination of walls and secured gates.

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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 requirement has been met.

A Healthy Eating policy is in place. Food for the children’s snack breaks will be provided by the children’s parents or guardians. Appropriate crockery and cutlery is available for the children’s use at mealtimes. Should a child become thirsty during the day, they will have access to their own reusable water bottles, which will be maintained within the care room. An additional supply of bottled water will be available in the refrigerator, where the children’s perishable snacks will also be stored.

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.

General safety:

- The temperature of the water at the wash hand basins is thermostatically controlled, so as not to exceed 43°C. Recorded water temperature readings ranged from 30.2°C to 37.1°C.
- High-level shelving is in use for the storage of cleaning agents.
- Toys and play equipment in the care room are maintained in good condition.
- The first aid box is stored in the secured office, out of the children’s reach.
- Fire exit doors are maintained free from obstruction.

Infection control:

- Adequate handwashing facilities are in place; warm running water, liquid soap and electric hand dryers are provided in the sanitary facilities.
- Foot pedal operated bins are available for the hygienic disposal of waste.
- Wall hooks have been installed for the storage of children’s coats and personal belongings.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) The registered provider holds a certificate in First Aid Response (FAR) and has confirmed that she will be available to the children at all times. The inspector was advised that a second staff member is also scheduled to undertake FAR training.
- (2)
- (a) A well-equipped first aid kit is available in the office.
 - (b) The first aid supplies will be consistently accessible throughout the hours of operation.

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 firefighting 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) Provision to record the undertaking of monthly fire drills is in place.
 - (b) Written information is available in relation to the commissioning of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms, with respective dates of 24 July 2024 and 26 July 2024 noted.
- (4) A notice, outlining the steps to be taken in the event of a fire, is displayed in the main care room. Clear signage for the designated fire assembly point is visible.

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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.

Adequate insurance cover is in place. The certificate specifies that a maximum of 22 children can attend part time care and that the policy is valid until 27th 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) From a visual assessment, the premises appears to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) From the exterior, the main entrance door is secured by a key lock mechanism, to prevent access by unauthorised persons. The care room door, which provides access to the entrance lobby and entrance/exit door is fitted with a high-level opening mechanism on the interior, to reduce the likelihood of a child exiting, while unsupervised. The outdoor play environment is secured by walls and gates. The door to the office and the door to the store room will be secured when not in use and the keys will be stored on high-level wall hooks.

(c)

- In the care room, adequate lighting is provided through a combination of natural lighting, via large windows and LED ceiling lights, with protective covers.
- Air to water heating is in place. The recorded air temperatures in the care room and sanitary facilities fell within the recommended range of 18°C to 22°C; an air temperature of 20.7°C was noted in the care room and both sanitary facilities had air temperature readings of 20.9°C.
- There are openable windows in the main care room and in the sanitary facilities.

(d) The premises appears clean and well maintained throughout. A cleaning schedule has been devised, with provision to record the cleaning duties undertaken by staff.

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(e) There are three toilet cubicles and three wash hand basins accessible for the children's use and there is one toilet and one wash hand basin on the premises for staff members. A nappy changing unit has been purchased to cater for any child who may require nappy changing.

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.
- (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).

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) There is sufficient clear floor space available in the care room for the proposed 22 children to engage with materials, participate in activities and move freely within the environment.
- (2) The room was measured at 68.33m².
- (4) The registered provider proposes to contemporaneously accommodate children attending the sessional service and the part time service. The care room allows for each of the proposed 22 children attending the sessional service, to have a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space during this time.