

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2024LK007
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Caherconlish Montessori
-------------------------	-------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Millennium Centre, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick.
----------------------------	--

<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 CC60
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Helen O'Riordan
-------------------------------------	-----------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	13/02/2025
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	9	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	-----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, Second Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Riordan
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

Caherconlish Montessori is a sessional preschool service located in the village of Caherconlish not far from Limerick city. The service operates Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 midday and is open for 48 weeks of the year. The service can accommodate a maximum of 22 preschool children at any one time. The facility operates from a large well-resourced preschool room within the local community center. An outdoor play area used solely by the preschool children is available to the side of the premises. Children also have access to a community playground located on the site. Suitable sanitary accommodation is located close to the preschool room.

### Staffing

The registered provider is the owner of the service. A designated person in charge is appointed to manage the service on a daily basis. Two additional staff members are also available to work at the service. All adults have completed their studies and hold the relevant qualification in Early childhood care and education.

### 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 the 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 provider, person in charge, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

*(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 appointed a designated person in charge to oversee the operating of the service. A named person was available to deputise if needed.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the person in charge was present and the staff roster indicated that this person was available on the premises each day.

(c) There is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee working at the facility.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references from past employers were available for the registered provider, the designated person in charge and each staff member working at the service.

(b) All references were from past employers and references from other reputable sources were not required.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the registered provider and each staff member working at the facility. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required for the registered provider or for any of the staff working at the service.

(4) Each staff member held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 and 7.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at the service.

(2) On the day of the first inspection there were 9 preschool children present with 2 adults. A relief staff member was available if needed. The adult child ratio was correct.

### 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:**

There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service and parents were advised to provide children with nutritious snacks each day for break time. All perishable foods were appropriately stored in a refrigerator each morning until required at lunch.

Children had unrestricted access to the toilets located close to the preschool room. Hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were available for handwashing. The children could be easily supervised while independently

accessing the bathroom facilities. A change of clothes was available for all children if needed. Protective clothing was accessible for the children to wear when participating in messy play activities, or when playing outdoors in wet weather.

Tissues and wipes were always reachable to the children and all waste was disposed of properly in foot pedal operated lidded bins.

Weather permitting children got to spend time outdoors each day at the preschool. A designated area adjacent to the premises was closed off and a safe area was reserved for children to use lots of ride on toys. Children had access to a community playground located on site where lots of equipment to encourage gross motor development was accessible.

### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

The service operated from a large carefully designed preschool room located on the first floor of the local community centre. The service had exclusive use of this room throughout the year. The room had a range of developmentally appropriate, well-resourced interest areas for the children e.g. A construction area, a role play space, an imaginative play area, an art area with art easel, paint pots and brushes and a book/library corner with a good supply of age-appropriate reading material. Low level, soft couches and soft floor mats created a relaxation space for children to take a rest if required. Lots of wall art and educational posters were exhibited across all walls. These were displayed at a level visible to the children. Tuff trays were accessible for sensorial play. A sand tray and water play were also available to the children. Low level tables and chairs were used for dining at break time and for many tabletop activities at all other times

The outdoor play area provided space for more active play opportunities. The areas were safe and secure with fully enclosed fencing surrounding the community playground area. Ride on toys were available for use outside and an area next to the community centre was cordoned off to ensure children's safety while playing outside.