

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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| Tusla I.D: | TU2024LK007 |
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| Name of Service: | Caherconlish Montessori |
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| Address of Service: | Millenium Centre Caherconlish Co Limerick |
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| Email Address: | helenmoriordan@gmail.com |
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| Name of Proposed Registered Provider: | Helen O’Riordan |
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| Type of Proposed Service: | Full Day Care | <input type="checkbox"/> | Part-Time | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drop-In | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Sessional | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Childminding | <input type="checkbox"/> | Temporary | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Proposed service type: | Sessional |
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| Proposed Number of Children: | 22 |
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| Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,) | Sessional Service Maximum 22 Preschool Children 3 – 6 years 09.00hrs – 12.00hrs |
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| Registered service: | Sessional Service for 22 Preschool Children. |
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| Date of Inspection: | 2 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
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| Inspection Undertaken by: | Josetta Ryan |
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| Title: | Early Years Inspector |
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| Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: | Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 2 nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick |
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| Rationale for Inspection |
| Proposed New Service |

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

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| Registration Status: | Sessional Service for 22 Preschool Children. |
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| Date of Registration: | 13 th of September |
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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).

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| Description of Service | Caherconlish Montessori is a proposed sessional service located in the Millenium centre in Caherconlish Co. Limerick. Operational hours will be from Monday to Friday 9:00hrs - 12:00hrs for 38 weeks of the year with a maximum of 22 children attending. |
| Premises | The service proposes to operate from a room within the community hall. There is one playroom indoors and the service has sole access to an outdoor play area located at the side of the service and the community playground. It has suitable sanitary facilities for both adults and children. |
| Staffing | There will be two staff employed in the service who have childcare qualifications and a third member of staff will be available to provide relief cover. |
| 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> |
| Acknowledgement | The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and person in charge 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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The service will have a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise available.

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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.
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—
- (b) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school 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.

Requirement met:

- (1) There will be an adequate number of adults working in the service as it proposes to have 2 adults supervising a maximum of 22 preschool children at any one time. Currently as there are 11 children booked in to the service for September 2024 and two adults will work in the service on a daily basis.
- (8) (b) A second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance if required will be available in the event of an emergency in the service.

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:

- (1)(a) Facilities for children to play indoors and outdoors were suitable as there were clearly defined interest areas in the room and sufficient play equipment was evident in a storage shed in the outdoor play area. Play equipment will be rotated for use both indoors and outdoors.
- (b) Suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day were available in the quiet/rest corner. A child sized couch was available where children can sit comfortably, rest and have some quiet time.
- (2)(a) A safe secure outdoor space was available on site for outdoor play for the children. Safety in the outside play area has been included in the risk assessment policy for the service.

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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:

Nutritious snacks and drinks will be provided by parents and refrigerated where required. A healthy eating policy for the service has been documented and is available.

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 entrance door was secured preventing unauthorised access and preventing a child leaving the service.
Drinking water was readily available to the children.
Storage for cleaning materials and equipment was provided in a secure area in a cupboard out of reach of the children.
Water temperatures at the wash hand basins were maintained at or below 43°C.
Window blinds cords did not pose a potential hazard to the children as they were attached to hooks on the wall to make them safe.
Toys and play equipment were safe and suitable for the age of children using them.
Risk assessment safety checklists were available for both indoors in the playroom and in the outdoor play area.

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:

- (1) There is one person trained in first aid for children (First Aid Responder) and will be available to the children proposing to attend the pre-school service.
(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available.
(b) The first aid box will be available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

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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.

Requirement met:

- (1)(a) Arrangements are in place to record any fire drill that will take place in the premises.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises was available. Fire extinguishers were last service in June 2024. Smoke alarms were serviced in June 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the playroom. The fire assembly point was clearly identified and visible in the car park.

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.

The registration team received a copy of adequate insurance from 09/09/2024 to 27/03/2025

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:

On visual examination the premises was:

- (a) Of sound and stable structure.
- (b) Safe and secure as entrance and exit doors were secured.
- (c) Natural lighting and artificial lighting was available. Natural ventilation was available with openable windows in the room. The heating was provided through an air conditioning system.
- (d) The room and sanitary areas were clean and cleaning checklists were documented.
- (e) Suitable sanitary facilities were available as there were two children's toilets and two wash hand basins available near the playroom and downstairs. Adult sanitary accommodation was also available downstairs also.

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.
- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met

(1) Sufficient clear floor space was available in the room for the number of children proposing to attend the pre-school service.

(2) Not Applicable

(3) The measurements of the playroom were recorded as
 2.50 meters x 5.60 meters = 14.00 meters squared.
 4.40 meters x 3.00 meters = 13.20 meters squared.
 6.00 meters x 2.60 meters = 15.56 meters squared.
 42.80 meters squared.

Therefore, the total space available in the room was 42.80 meters squared.

A maximum of 22 preschool children are allowed attend in one room at any one time.

(3) A minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child proposing to attend the service.