

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020DY008
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Name of Service:	Lisa's Montessori Preschool
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Address of Service:	252 Pace Road, Little Pace Paddock, Clonee, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D15 KR58
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Name of Registered Provider:	Lisa Nolan
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Service type:	Childminder
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Date of Inspection:	18/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne
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	Click or tap here to enter text.
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Description of service

Lisa's Montessori Preschool is a privately run childminding service. The service is located in a purpose-built building to the rear of the registered providers residential dwelling. There is one large care room with a sanitary facility off the care room. The service has access to an outdoor area in the back garden of the service. The service caters for children aged 2 to 6 years, Monday to Friday, in two sessions 9am to 12pm and 12.30pm to 3.30pm, September to June. The service can cater for a maximum of 5 children at any one time

Staffing

On the day of inspection, the registered provider was present to care for the children. The service operates single handedly. In the event of an emergency, a second familiar person familiar with the service is available. The registered provider holds a level 7 major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National framework of Qualifications.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations as follows:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4)

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(8)(b)

Regulation 12 Childminders

Regulation 15 Record of a Preschool Child

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. The scope of the inspection was the morning session of the service.

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 and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

(2) Two staff files were reviewed and the following was available.

(a)(b) The registered provider had two written references and ensured that two validated written references were available for the Emergency person.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for both the registered provider and the emergency contact person.

The service has also adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as registered provider and the emergency contact person had not lived in a state other than the State for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) The registered provider held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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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 childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and was available upon the inspector's arrival and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(8)(b) A second person who is familiar with the operation of the service is available to provide assistance to the childminder at all times and was located within close distance of the service in the event of an emergency.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 12 - Childminders

(1) A childminder shall ensure that-

(a) there are no more than 5 pre-school children in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children,

(b) subject to paragraph (2), there are no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children, and

(c) there is a working telephone on the premises.

(2) A childminder may have more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time where all such children are siblings of each other.

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Compliance Information

- (1) (a) On the day of inspection, there were four children for the morning session in attendance with four children on the register and three children were on the register for the afternoon session. Records indicated there were no more than five children in attendance at any one time.
- (b) There are no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in the care of the registered provider at any given time, including their own pre-school children.
- (c) A working telephone was available on the premises
- (2) Not Applicable as there was no siblings in attendance that were under the age of 15 months old.

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) to (i)

On review of the documentation relating to a sample of four children's files within the service, the required information and detail was available and complete.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The care room was bright and was an inviting play space which enabled the children to move and explore the areas of interest and low-level shelving units independently. The furniture provided for meals and tabletop activities was low level and suitable to the needs and age of the children.
- A range of play materials and equipment were organised, well-resourced and easily accessible with a variety of Montessori and play based materials and equipment suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending each room nurturing children's independence, ability to make decisions, enabling exploration and develop their play opportunities.
- A cosy area with a couch and soft mat with books for rest and relaxation was present.
- The children engaged in outdoor play during the morning session while under the supervision of the childminder. The area was equipped with trains with tracks, balance bikes, scooters, dolls with buggies, a basketball net with ball, a playhouse, sand with supporting equipment.

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:

- On arrival to the service, the inspector observed, the entrance gate was secure.
- Attendance records were present, completed and accurate.
- The play equipment and materials observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The temperature of the care room was recorded as 20.8°C at 10.00am, within the recommended ambient temperature of 18 - 22 °C.

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Infection Control:

- The service was visually clean with cleaning records and risk assessments were completed daily and available.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included warm water, liquid soap, and hand towels.
- Handwashing was completed after nose blowing, before lunch and after toilet visits.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were available for waste disposal.
- Adequate ventilation was available in the care room by means of openable windows and doors.

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 was trained in first aid response and was available on the premises at all times.
- (2) (a) (b) A first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the sanitary facility off the care room of the service and was available to the children in the 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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) A written record was reviewed by the inspector for fire drills completed and the last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on the 4th June 2024, and the service was closed for July and August 2024.
- (b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. Firefighting equipment were last serviced in October 2023 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on 5th October 2023.
- (4) The fire drill procedure was displayed on the wall of the premises and observed by the Inspector.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Evidence of insurance cover was available to demonstrate there was cover for a maximum of 6 children of which five were pre-school children with an expiry date of 11th August 2025.