

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC087							
Name of Service:	Caterpillars Montessori							
Address of Service:	Tennis Club Crosshaven Co. Cork							
Email Address:	Caterpillarsmontessori1@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms. Tara O'Donovan							
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒					
Date of Inspection:	1	3	0	9	2	0	2	1
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM		15		PM		n/a	
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Early Years Services Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurranabraher Cork							
Inspection undertaken by:	Ms. V. McCarthy							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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	Not Applicable
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Description of Service	Caterpillars Montessori is a sessional service that also caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) at the premises. Caterpillars Montessori uses a Montessori Pedagogy and caters for children aged 2 years upwards. The opening hours are 08.45 to 11.45 hours and 12.15 to 15.15 hours daily.
Premises	Caterpillars Montessori is located adjacent to the tennis club in the village of Crosshaven. It is a privately managed service that operates out of 1 room specifically adapted as a childcare facility. There are 2 toilet cubicles for children's use situated beside the care room and there is an enclosed outdoor play area provided to the front of the service for outdoor play activities.
Staffing	There are a total of 5 adults attached to the service that includes the registered provider who is service based. Each of the 5 adults work directly with children and each has a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications. There were 2 adults present on the day of inspection and both were working directly with the children.
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. 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 areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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—
- (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:

During the inspection the inspector focussed on the files to assess parts (2)(c)(d)(4) of 2 adults that commenced at the service since the previous inspection carried out on 31/01/2019.

(2)

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of each of the 2 adults.

(d) Not applicable as neither of the 2 adults had lived outside the jurisdiction for 6 months or more while over the age of 18 years were available on file.

(4)

Copies of Child Care Qualification between Level 5 and Level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework were available on file in respect of the 2 adults.

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) thereof 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) The Registered Provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.
- (3) On the day of the inspection there were 2 adults working with 15 children aged over 2.5 years that were all attending sessional service.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as this was not a single-handedly operated service.

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

Compliance Information:

BASIC NEEDS:

- There was a Healthy Eating Policy in place at the service. All the snacks were provided to the children by their parents or guardians. On the day of inspection, the children's snacks consisted of fruit, yogurts, cheese, sandwiches, and drinks of water. The children were provided with cups of drinking water, and it was noted that cups were freely available on a countertop if a child was thirsty and required additional fluids.
- The children were prompted and reminded by the adults to use the toilet. The independent use of the toilet by the children was encouraged and was supervised by the adults.
- The children were encouraged to move about freely in the care room and participated in activities of their choice such as doll play or chatting and laughing over library books on the soft couch.
- Hand hygiene by the children was supported and encouraged by the adults who reminded the children to wash and dry their hands after using the toilet, after outdoor play and before eating.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- The children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way by the adults. The adults provided the children with praise and positive encouragement throughout the morning session.
- The children were dressed appropriately in their raincoats and hats as they carried out play activities in the outdoor play area.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The Key person system was evident in the service which enabled children to form secure relationships with the adults caring for them. The 15 children and 2 adults operated as 1 pod group. During the inspection it was noted that the staff comforted, supported, and praised the children throughout the morning.
- The adults maintained an electronic record regarding the times in and out of each child and adult that attended the service, and this also facilitated contact tracing should there be a case of Covid-19 in the service.
- Information and posters about public health safety were displayed at the entrance to remind parents and staff about safe hygiene practices, social distancing and to guide them against congregating.
- The service operated in partnership with parents and the Registered Provider informed the Inspector that she regularly forwarded parents and guardians relevant updated information via an electronic application.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The care room and 2 children toilet cubicles were maintained in clean and good condition. The children's free style paintings were attached to a drying rack and the craft work of Dinosaur Land that was created by the children was positioned in the corner of the room close to the container of dinosaur figurines.
- The care room was provided with natural ventilation by 2 windows that could be tilted open safely and it was noted during the inspection that the care room was well ventilated.
- The varied play materials such as tabletop activities, the Montessori materials, arts and crafts area and books were all set up and stored on low shelves situated at a child's eye level and were easily accessible to the children.
- The child sized tables and chairs provided for the children were maintained in good condition and were arranged by the adults to suit the children's activities such as tabletop activities and their snack break.
- A designated rest area consisting of a child sized couch was provided adjacent to the library rack in the care room and children could use it as they chose.
- There was a secured outdoor play area located to the front of the premises that provided opportunities for fresh air and imaginative play. The secured

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

outdoor area had a tarmac ground surface and was surrounded by a fence and two locked gates. The area was equipped with a play kitchen, a play office area, blackboards, a waterplay table, and a selection of ride on play 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:

- The entrance door leading into the care room from the outdoor play area was secured by a lock when it was closed that prevented unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
- The children were supervised by the adults if they used hand sanitiser.
- All leads and flexes attached to equipment in the care room were kept out of children's reach.
- The 2 shower areas beside the toilet cubicles were fitted with safety gates to prevent children accessing the areas.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- A hand sanitiser station was provided at the main entrance gate and hand sanitiser was available in the care room.
- Written cleaning schedules were available to demonstrate that the care room was cleaned thoroughly each day and records of the cleaning were maintained electronically.
- All toys and play equipment in the playroom and outdoor play area were observed to be in good condition.
- A supply of warm water, liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated bins were available on the premises. The water at the children's wash hand basin was thermostatically controlled to a temperature recorded at 32.2°C.
- The children's bags and coats were stored off the floor on wall hooks.
- The children's outdoor protective clothing and wellingtons were stored in large storage containers.
- The adults had received training regarding the signs and symptoms of Covid-19 and understood that they should not have any Covid-19 related sickness when working in a childcare facility. The staff had been advised in relation to the requirement to self-isolate where appropriate.
- A supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including hand sanitisers, disposable single-use plastic aprons, non-powdered disposable gloves, shoe coverings and face masks was available if required.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults were aware of the correct measures for coughing and sneezing and therefore could help children follow this process if required. A supply of paper tissues and a pedal operated bins were available on the premises.• There was evidence that the service had implemented measures to practice, social distancing, safe hand hygiene and other measures related to Covid-19 by having information posters displayed at the entrance to the premises. |
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