

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE043							
Name of Service:	Edmund Rice Montessori							
Address of Service:	Highbury House, Ballymorris, Cratloe, Co. Clare							
Email Address:	rachelormston@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Rachel Ormston							
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒					
Date of Inspection:	0	4	0	5	2	0	2	2
No of Pre-School Children	AM		6	PM		N/A		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, Estuary House 2 nd Floor, Henry Street, Limerick.							
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan							
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	Edmund Rice Montessori School is a privately owned sessional preschool service located in a rural area close to Cratloe in Co. Clare. The service provides a morning sessional service from 9.30am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday. There are 7 pre-school children registered to attend the service.
Premises	The service operates from a well-resourced pre-school room adjacent to the registered providers' family home. A well-planned outdoor play area is located to the side and front of the premises. Sanitary facilities are located next to the preschool room.
Staffing	The registered provider is the designated person in charge of operating the service. A second person is available to call on in the event of an emergency. The service provider has achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education and engages regularly in ongoing training and professional development.
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. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of child and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. 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 and the children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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
- (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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who—
- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and
 - (b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date
- (6A is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of "paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)" for "paragraphs (5) and (6)", and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): "
- (6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Compliance Information:

- (1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection.
- (b) The registered provider was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)(a) There were written references, from past employers, available in respect of the registered provider.
- (b) Not applicable.

Part III - Management and Staff

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- (c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána was available for the registered provider.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (4) The provider held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.
- (5) Paragraph (4) does not apply to the service.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (6)(a) Not applicable.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

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| Compliance Information: | A risk management policy was in place which identified any potential risks in the internal and external areas of the school and the policy outlined the controls in place to reduce or eliminate the risk. The policy had been reviewed and updated considering the Covid-19 pandemic. |
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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.*
- (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.*

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| Compliance Information: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The service operates a morning session from 9.30am to 12.30pm. On the day of the inspection there were 6 children present with 1 staff. The adult child ratio met the requirements of this area of Regulation 11. (3) At all times the registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in the service. (8)(c) The registered provider ensures that a second person was always available at the service in the event of an emergency. |
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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 in the service and nutritious snacks were observed in the children's lunch boxes at break time, e.g., sandwiches, rice cakes, carrot batons, fruit and cheese strings. Drinking water was always accessible to the children, with each child having easy access to their own bottle of water throughout the morning. There was no sharing of crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils at lunch time.

Children had unrestricted access to the toilets located next to the classroom. Hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were available to ensure hygienic washing of the hands.

A change of clothes was available for all children if needed.

Tissues and wipes were always accessible to the children and all waste was disposed of properly in lidded bins.

Children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment both indoors and outdoors. Appropriate outdoor clothing was available for all children.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The preschool room was a large well-resourced room which was clearly laid out to accommodate the needs of the children. Low level tables and chairs were available for tabletop activities and for dining at snack time. A library area with a range of reading materials provided a relaxation/rest space. Art and craft facilities were available with a painting easel, paint pots, brushes and aprons available to the children. Lots of children's artwork and items of interest were displayed at children's eye level. Montessori equipment was laid out on open shelving which encouraged independent learning opportunities for the children.

Children spend a lot of time outdoors where they had plenty space for active play time. Children were always supervised while outdoors and the area was fully enclosed to ensure children's safety. A gardening area, a seated space, a large playhouse, swings and slides and a large blackboard provided children with opportunities for lots of extended learning while outside.

The indoor and the outdoor areas were continuously reviewed, altered and enhanced to suit the children's ever-changing interests, capabilities and preferences.

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 entrance to the pre-school was secured. There was a hand sanitising station inside the main door of the premises. Cleaning agents were easily available and were stored in safe and inaccessible high shelves, well out of reach of children. Toys used in the service were cleaned thoroughly as required and at the end of each day. An air purifier was available in the pre-school room.

INFECTION CONTROL:

The registered provider was aware of the need to self-isolate if feeling unwell and was mindful of the required actions to be taken if a child became symptomatic while in the service. An isolation space was identified and a supply of personnel protective equipment was available if needed. Accurate attendance records were maintained each day of the children, with arrival and departure times documented. Personal waste including used tissues and all cleaning waste were appropriately disposed of, in foot pedal operated, lidded bins. Hand washing occurred at regular intervals throughout the day. A supply of warm water, liquid soap, paper towels were available in the indoor sanitary facilities. A written cleaning record was available where high contact areas were regularly cleaned. Play equipment in the indoor and outdoor areas were cleaned on a regular basis and a record of cleaning was maintained.

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 held an up to date first aid certificate and the cert was in date up to July 2022.
- (2)(a) There was a well-stocked first aid box located in the service.
- (b) The first aid box was readily available and accessible if required.

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) Records were available to show that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis. The most recent drill took place on the 25th of April 2022. (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises. The equipment was last serviced in August 2021. (4) The fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed in the service.
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information:	The insurance certificate for the service was available and in date on inspection. The service was insured to accommodate 11 children at any one time. The certificate was due to expire on the 27th of November 2022.
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