

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015DR129

Name of Service Mountainside Montessori

Address of Service: Holy Trinity National School, Glencairn, Dublin 18

Email Address: anniemcnulty@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ann McNulty and Martina Long

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time		Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	To move from a classroom to a partitioned hall within the same school building.
Proposed Number of Children:	22
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Change of room approved following inspection
Registered change:	Sessional Service, 22 children any one time

Date of Inspection: 3 0 0 8 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: Fiona Carty

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:

Floor 7, Brunel Building, ,
Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham
Dublin 8

Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

The service is seeking to move rooms within the same school building from a classroom on the first floor to a partitioned area in a hall. The number of children accommodated will not change.

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

Registration Status:	Sessional Service, 22 children any one time
Date of Registration	30 th August 2023



Child and Family Agency Act 2013
Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

Version 05
Implemented- Aug 2022
EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)

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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).

Description of Service	Mountainside Montessori is a privately owned sessional preschool service currently providing early childhood education to children aged 2 – 6 years from 9.00am to 12.00pm, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. The service will have the sole use of the hall area during the hours of operation.
Premises	The service is proposed to operate from a partitioned area in a hall within Holy Trinity National School. The service comprises of a playroom and sanitary accommodation for children and adults. An outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises. High level heavy duty fencing secures the perimeter of both the outdoor area and the carpark.
Staffing	The service will be staffed by 3 staff members including the two registered providers. All staff have a qualification at minimum Level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education.
Methodology	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 the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises. 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 registering the change in circumstance. 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 both registered providers who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

The service has designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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

(c) 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) An adequate number of adults will work directly in the pre-school service. There will be 3 adults caring for a maximum number of 22 children.

(8)(b) and (c) Not applicable

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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—*
- (b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises 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.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—*
- (a) *a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or*
 - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) There is 1 care room in use in the service. The care room is bright and airy. The care room is fully equipped with a range of play materials and equipment suitable to the age and stage of the children who will be attending the service. Low level furniture and shelving were available containing materials for creative and imaginative play. These included designated interest areas including a home corner, small world play and an art area accessible to the children at their level. A rest area with books was available in the care room. Various equipment from the Montessori Method of Education was also available to children in the care room.

(b) The care room had a suitable and comfortable rest area available which contained soft matting, two child sized sofas and cushions.

(2) An outdoor play area which was safely and securely fenced off by high level heavy duty fencing on all site boundaries were in place to secure the entire area. The service

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	intends to use a partitioned area of the outdoor area which they will secure with barrier fencing. There was a number of outdoor play equipment available including ride on toys. (3) (a) A high level perimeter fence surrounded all of the outdoor area which were also gated. (b) Not applicable as space is provided on the premises. (4) Not applicable. (5) Not applicable
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

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:	The service proposes that the parents of the children will provide all their own food and snacks. All perishable food will be stored in a refrigerator below 5° Celsius. Drinking water and additional snacks will also be available to the children.
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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 requirement has been met. The service is located in a hall within a primary school premises. Direct access to the care room was through a side door at the rear of the building. The children will be taken directly to the care room by staff during operational hours of the service. It was advised that children will be accepted into the service directly from this entrance to the building which must be opened from the inside. It was also noted that pre-school children will be collected from this door after sessional hours by parents/guardians. The main entrance to the building was secured with a magnetic intercom system. The partitioned area to the classroom was also secured with a high-level latch which could not be reached by a child. All cleaning materials were stored safely out of reach of children.
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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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) 2 of the adults who will work in the pre-school service had certification to confirm up to date first aid responder training with expiry dates of December 2024 and February 2025.

(2)(a), (b) The first aid box was located in a storage room adjacent to the care room.

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:

The requirement has been met:

(1)(a) A recording system was provided to maintain a record of monthly fire drills as conducted in the service.

(1)(b)

A recording system was available which confirmed the fire extinguishers located in the building were serviced in May 2023.

The premises was assessed by the local authority Fire officer and an architect and found to be in substantial compliance with the requirements of the Building Regulations as they pertain to Fire Safety. A maintenance record for smoke alarms confirmed that a maintenance service was conducted in May 2023.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was provided for the pre-school service.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

Insurance cover was available which confirmed that the service has cover for a maximum of 22 pre-school children in the service at one time attending on a sessional basis.

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:

(a)

The interior walls, floors and ceilings of the room in use by the service appeared in a good state of repair and maintenance. There was no evidence of dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings which were freshly painted. Windows in the care room appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and were both positioned and opened above child height. The registered provider confirmed that there are no structural defects with the premises.

(b)

The exit from the care room to outside was secured and opened only from the inside. The care room was located at ground floor level and a door with a high-level latch was in place to prevent the children exiting the room unaccompanied. Locked storage rooms were available to facilitate storage of play equipment not in constant or everyday use.

(c) Openable windows are provided in the care room for both natural ventilation and natural day light. The light fittings in rooms are covered with shatterproof diffusers. Electrical heaters located on the ceiling of the room will also be used to heat the premises.

(d) The floor covering, and painted walls and ceiling were observed to be clean and well maintained on the day of inspection. Cleaning equipment and chemicals are stored in a locked cupboard which was inaccessible to the children.

(e) Toilets and wash hand basins are located outside the playroom off a hallway. Staff toilets were located on the opposite end of the corridor and there was also access to additional sanitary facilities located in the building if required. The water

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supply to both wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled and both soap dispensers and disposable paper towels were provided in the sanitary accommodation. There were openable windows available in all four toilet cubicles. The service is connected to both the public drainage and public water supply.

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.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
 (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
 (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- (1) An area of 72.38sqm is available in the playroom for a maximum of 22 pre-school children in daily attendance on a sessional basis.