

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DR129

Name of Service: Mountainside Montessori

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

Email Address: anniemcnulty@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Ann McNulty & Martina Long

Type of Service Registered: **Part-Time** ☒

Date of Inspection: 1 3 0 6 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 18 PM 6

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8

Inspection undertaken by: R. Brien
O. Quill
Title: Early Years Inspectors

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 Non-Applicable

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Description of Service	Mountainside Montessori is a privately owned service which was established in 2009. The service is registered to provide part time care to children from 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 09:00 to 13:00, Monday to Friday.
Premises	The early years service is located on the first floor of Holy Trinity National School in one large open plan care room. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is located within the grounds of the national school with tarmacadam surfacing that children have access to on a daily basis.
Staffing	There are three staff employed in the service including the two registered providers. The third staff member is employed in the service under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). There were three staff present on the day of inspection and all 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 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 Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Providers, staff and 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.

Compliance Information:

- (1)
- (a)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.
- (2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of one adult working in the service who had been employed after the last date of inspection on the 27 November 2019. Staff files for this adult were reviewed as detailed.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána was available for this adult.
- (d) Not applicable, as the adult had not lived in another State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) The staff member held a relevant major award in early childhood care and education.

Non-Compliance Information:

- (2) The registered providers had not taken all steps required prior to recruitment to check whether the applicant was suited to their roles as follows;
- (a)(b) There were no references available for one adult working in the service from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>Corrective Action</u> (a) & (b) The references are up to date and verified. <u>Preventive Action</u> (a) & (b) Staff references will be held on file in the service. <u>Supporting Documentation Submitted</u> The registered provider submitted supporting documentation which was reviewed and deemed to meet the Regulatory requirement under Regulation 9.
Summary Comment:	The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address the non-compliance.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(1) <i>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.</i> (2) <i>Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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</i> (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)— (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times	
Compliance Information:	(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection. (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for part time services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were three staff present with eighteen children. (8)(a) There were two adults on the premises at all times.

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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:

(1)(a) Basic Needs:

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and lunch was provided daily by the parents of the children in attendance. Children who were attending on a part time basis were provided with an additional snack by parents. The children assisted in preparing for lunch time by setting the tables with individual placemats the children had painted with their name and photograph in the middle. Lunch time was observed to be a relaxed and sociable event where staff sat and ate with the children. Children were observed eating a variety of sandwiches, crackers, fruit and yoghurts for their lunch. Drinking water was available to the children throughout the day.

Children were encouraged and supported to be independent suitable to their age and stage of development including using the toilet independently and cleaning up following lunch time and play.

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

The routine in the service was observed to be child-led, and children were observed to be engaged in their play. Staff were observed acting in a supportive role, extending children's learning through conversation and prompts. Staff displayed warmth and sensitivity during all interactions with the children.

Transitions within the service were managed with ease with children provided with a countdown from one activity to the next. The transition to outdoor play was managed with a game to support children to put on their coats.

The service communicates briefly with parents at collection and arrival times. An online application is used to communicate with parents regarding relevant information.

Physical and Material Environment:

The service operates in a large, bright open plan care room which was arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included a sand table, water play table, a painting area, a home corner, construction and block play area. A library and rest area with a rug

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

and soft seating was also available to the children along with shelves with materials from the Montessori teaching curriculum.

The care room provided a range of developmentally appropriate and valuable play experiences for the children and was adequately resourced and set up with a variety of materials. Children were observed moving freely around the care room and engaging in different types of play activities, including water play, imaginative play and tabletop activities. All play materials were observed to be easily accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low-level tables and chairs were provided suitable to the children attending the service. The children's artwork was displayed throughout the room and family photos were displayed at the children's level.

The children had access to an enclosed outdoor play area in the national school yard with tarmacadam surfacing. Staff were observed playing games with the children which included a parachute and streamers.

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:

The inspectors found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered providers had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. Hand sanitisers and hazardous materials were stored safely out of reach of children. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

The service has an outings policy in place. The last outing took place on 8 June 2022. Documentation reviewed evidenced that a risk assessment and signed parental consent forms were completed for this outing.

Infection Control:

Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and before meals. Waste was managed appropriately with the use of a pedal-operated, lidded bin.

Administration Of Medication:

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications and a sample of medication administration records reviewed were appropriately completed.
Non-Compliance Information:	Infection Control: 1. The service had no nappy changing policy in place to ensure effective procedures were in place for infection control. Fire Safety: 2. Documentation reviewed evidenced that fire drills were not carried out on a monthly basis. The registered provider informed the inspector that monthly fire drills are completed and that a fire drill took place on 25 May 2022. However, the last written record available was March 2020.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>Corrective Action</u> Infection Control: 1. A nappy changing policy has been developed and agreed with all staff. Fire Safety: 2. Monthly fire drills are now recorded and an up to date record is displayed in the service. <u>Preventive Action</u> Infection Control: 1. The nappy changing policy will be displayed in the nappy changing area to be followed by all staff. Fire Safety: 2. Monthly recording of fire drills will be maintained. <u>Supporting Documentation Submitted</u> The registered provider submitted supporting documentation which was reviewed and deemed to meet the Regulatory requirement under Regulation 23.
Summary Comment:	The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address the non-compliances.

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)

A person trained in first aid for children was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.

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 available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken in March 2020.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment were dated 28 August 2021 and 04 May 2022 for the smoke alarms.

(4)

The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.