

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DR160

Name of Service: Dun Laoghaire Montessori School

Address of Service: Dun Laoghaire Presbyterian Church, York Road, Dun Laoghaire.

Email Address: dlmontessorischool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Christine Serviss

Type of service registered: Sessional ☒

Date(s) of Inspection: 1 2 0 4 2 0 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 16 PM 16

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate,
Tusla Child and Family Agency,
Loughlinstown Health Centre,
Loughlinstown Drive,
Loughlinstown,
Co Dublin.

Inspection undertaken by: O Quill
Title: Early Years Inspector

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

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Description of Service	Dun Laoghaire Montessori was established in 2013 and is privately operated. Sessional care and education is provided for pre-school children aged 2.5 to 5.5 years through the use of a play based Montessori curriculum. The service operates Monday to Friday from 9 am to 12.30pm. The early year's service is situated in a Presbyterian church hall in Dun Laoghaire and consists of one Montessori room. The early years service has use of a large hall within the premises and an outdoor play area is available for the children on the premises.
Staffing	The registered provider and one adult worked directly with the pre-school children. Both adults had attained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education and had documented evidence of ongoing 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. 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—
- (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.
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

Compliance Information:

Following a review of the service file and a discussion with the registered provider it was confirmed no new members of staff were employed in the service since the last inspection. The files for both adults present were reviewed on last inspection and met with the regulatory requirement.

(7)

(a) The registered provider confirmed to the inspector both herself and her staff member had completed online training in relation to return to work, Covid-19, and on the Quality Regulatory Framework. A meeting was held to go through the amended policies and procedures. A written record of completed training and certificates was provided.

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.

Compliance Information:	Written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 were in place for the service. Documents reviewed on this inspection were; • Infection control policy and cleaning procedures. • Covid 19 Policy and response plan. • The risk management policy. • Incident plan. • Revised drop off and collection procedures.
-------------------------	--

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:	<i>(1)</i> There were sixteen pre-school children attending the service being supervised by two adults. An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children attending the service. <i>(3)</i> The minimum ratio of adults to pre-school children was adhered to during the inspection. <i>(8) (c)</i> Not applicable, as the registered provider did not operate the service single-handedly.
-------------------------	---

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) The inspector observed the following practices on the day of inspection:

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

The children were cared for by the same staff members each day, enabling them to form and sustain relationships. The staff members were observed to be warm, attentive and responsive to the children in their care, the children were spoken to softly by name, and with good eye contact. Conversation was encouraged and questions were answered. The staff members demonstrated a good understanding of each child's personality and temperament in their care.

Children's behaviour was managed in a competent way with an emphasis on praise and encouragement. The staff members supported the children to be sociable in a calm manner.

The registered provider communicates with parents by phone, text messaging and email. The service also had a notice board for parents.

Physical and Material environment

Materials and equipment were freely available to the children as they were stored on low shelving. The Montessori equipment included letters, numbers, a practical life section, jigsaws and puzzles.

The rest area was near the library area within the room which contained a good range of age appropriate books.

Throughout the morning children were observed happily engaged in different activities of their choice like drawing, completing puzzles and counting. The staff together with the children, planned physical activity in the indoor hall.

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 registered provider had taken measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children, for example:

GENERAL SAFETY:

- Entry to the premises was secure and access was via a bell system. This ensured the children could not exit the building unsupervised and unauthorised access was not possible.
- All toys and equipment available to the children were in good working condition.
- Cleaning agents and medication was safely stored on high shelves out of the reach of children.
- The First aid box was clearly labelled, fully stocked and safely stored.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Cleaning schedules were maintained and the environment was clean.
- In the sanitary accommodation thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towel and pedal operated waste bins was provided. Children were supervised washing their hands prior to eating and after using the toilet.
- Staff were observed to clean the tables prior to children eating their lunch.
- Children were observed to follow the correct etiquette when coughing. Disposable tissues were on a low shelf accessible for the children.
- A designated area was identified to isolate a child or staff member as required. Staff were familiar with the procedure to be completed should a child present with symptoms of Covid-19. A supply of PPE was available for use if required.