

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR160
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Dun Laoghaire Montessori School
-------------------------	---------------------------------

Address of Service:	Dun Laoghaire Presbyterian Church Hall, York Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	D18 HR50
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Christine Serviss
-------------------------------------	-------------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	21/10/2024
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill
Title:	Early Years Inspector

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
---------------------------------	----------------

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

This private childcare service has been operated by the current registered provider since 2013 in this location. Sessional care and education is provided for children aged for children aged from 2-6 years. The programme of care is facilitated through the use of a play-based Montessori curriculum. The service operates daily from 9am – 12.30pm and is registered to accommodate a maximum number of sixteen children. The early years service is located in one of the rooms in the church hall on the grounds of the Presbyterian church in Dun Laoghaire. An outdoor play area is available for the children on the premises and the service also has use of a large indoor hall.

Staffing

There are two adults employed in the service including the registered provider. Both adults had attained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The inspection plan was to assess compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 19 Health welfare and development of child

Regulation 25 First aid

Regulation 26 Fire safety measures

Regulation 27 Supervision

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) The service had a named person in charge and a person who could deputise in their absence.*
 - (b) The person in charge was present when the inspector arrived and remained on the premises throughout the inspection.*
- (2) Since the previous inspection dated 22 May 2023, no new staff have been employed in the service. On last inspection the staff files viewed for the two adults employed met the Regulatory requirement of Regulation 9(2)(a),(b),(c) and (4).*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available and reviewed for both adults employed in the service. These were dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. There were two adults working directly with fifteen children.

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, and

Compliance Information

(1) (a)

Children were observed eating healthy snacks which were provided by parents. Snack time was relaxed and sociable children and staff sat together and engaged in conversation. Good hygiene practices were observed all children were supervised washing their hands prior to eating and after using the toilet. Staff were observed to wash their own hands after assisting children to clean their nose.

The children had access to one large, open plan room which included areas of interest enabling freedom to play and explore. Examples included arts and crafts, tabletop activities, construction, Montessori materials and a rest area.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Each area was suitably resourced and laid out to cater for the age range and number of children attending the service. Developmentally appropriate toys and materials were accessible to the children from open low-level shelving in the room. A suitable rest area was provided with soft, cushioned seating and a library shelf where children could avail of rest periods or quiet time away from the group as required.

The routine and play experiences in the service were observed to be child led, children were visibly calm, familiar with their caregivers and engaged in their play throughout the session. The adults were observed to use soft tones and gentle, respectful language during all interaction with children. The staff were observed to have a supportive role in children's learning, offering praise and encouragement towards the children throughout the session. The service communicates daily with parents as they bring and collect their children from the service. A monthly newsletter is issued to parents. The last letter was issued on the 16 October 2024. The service also using phone messaging to communicate with parents.

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) There was evidence that two adults employed in the service had completed paediatric first aid training and one of the adults had a First aid Responder certificate that was valid until the 2 March 2026 and was available to children attending the service. Both adults were immediately available to the children attending the pre-school.

(2)

(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid boxes available.

(b) The first aid box was available to children attending the service at all times.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There was a record available of fire drills which had taken place in the premises; the last recorded fire drill was on the 27 September 2024.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on the 21 May 2024 and the Smoke alarm was serviced on the 16 October 2024.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that children were supervised at all times during the inspection.