

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DS198

Name of Service: Monastery Preschool

Address of Service: 3 Monastery Walk, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

Email Address: monasterypreschool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Lisa Kennedy

Type of Service Registered: Sessional ☒

Date of Inspection: 0 9 1 2 2 0 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 18 PM n/a

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
D08 X01F

Inspection undertaken by: E. Mulhern
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	Monastery Preschool provides the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme to children aged 2 to 5 years. The service is open from 9am to 12pm and 12:15pm to 3:15pm and is registered to accommodate 22 children.
Premises	The service operates from an outdoor area and a single room building at the rear of the provider's home.
Staffing	Four adults are employed to work in the service including the provider.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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, 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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise.
 - (b) The named person in charge was on the premises at all times.
- (2) The inspection focused on the recruitment records of two adults who had been employed since the last inspection.
- (a)(b) The service demonstrated that they had considered references for both new staff during their recruitment.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for both adults.
 - (d) Police vetting records were not required as the adults had not lived abroad.
- (4) The adults held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 6 and level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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:

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children at all times.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times. Four staff worked directly with eighteen children.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as the person in charge does 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:

The inspector observed that staff implemented measures to meet the learning, development and well-being of children. Some examples of this were:

Basic Needs:

- The adults spoke to the children in a kind manner and speech and language skills were supported through conversation.
- The children brought food from home including sandwiches, yoghurts and fruit. Drinks of water were available throughout the session.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- The adults were attentive to the care needs of the children while promoting their independence. Children were supported to use the toilet with an appropriate balance of independence and supervision.
- The children were dressed in coats and hats appropriate to the weather as they spent the majority of their time outdoors.

Supporting Relationships around Children

- The children appeared content and were engaged in play and conversation. The adults spoke kindly and respectfully to them and each other at all times.
- Staff demonstrated a knowledge of the children's individual strengths, needs and preferences and supported them to find positive solutions to problems.
- A child whom staff explained had additional communication needs was provided with one-to-one attention and support in order to develop skills in this area. Staff spoke about ongoing communication with the child's parents in relation to the progress being made both at home and in the service.
- The service demonstrated positive regard for children's parents and guardians, using e-mail and a messaging app to exchange information.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The service focused on outdoor play with an indoor room available for lunch and for children to use as they wished.
- The service was well maintained and laid out with designated interest areas that supported children's learning and independence.
- All areas were well resourced with age-appropriate toys and materials available at the children's level to support child-led learning and play.
- A comfortable area was available indoors where children could rest or take a break from activities.

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 inspector observed that staff implemented measures to safeguard children's health, safety and welfare. Some examples of this were:

General Safety

- Entrances and exits were secured to prevent unauthorised access or children exiting unsupervised
- Emergency exits were kept clear
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of children

Infection Control:

- The premises were clean and well maintained
- Children washed their hands after using the toilet. Staff were able to identify all the times when handwashing is required.
- The sanitary facilities were adequately equipped
- Appropriate measures were taken to prevent and control the spread of Covid-19 within the service

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 record was available detailing fire-drills carried out in the service. The most recent fire-drill was dated 8 November 2021. (b) Records were available detailing the fire fighting and smoke detection systems. The most recent maintenance check was dated 7 August 2021. (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position.
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