

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY160
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Name of Service:	Our World Montessori
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Address of Service:	26 Grange Park Grove, Raheny, Dublin 5
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Eircode:	DO5 AE80
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Name of Registered Provider:	Carole Barrett
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/09/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	13
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Finnegan Hayes
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.
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Description of service

Our world montessori is a privately run service based in a residential area in North Dublin. The service is comprised of one care room, sanitary facilities, and an enclosed outdoor area. The service offers sessional care to children aged 2-6 years from 9:30am-1pm Monday to Friday 38 weeks per year in line with the Early childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

Staffing

The registered provider works directly with the children in the service and employs one staff member; both were present on the day of inspection.

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 the area of governance and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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.

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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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice was issued during the inspection in relation to Regulation 25 First Aid. A response which adequately addressed the concern was received on 15th September 2023.

Acknowledgments

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

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-

- (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 registered provider ensured the service had a named person in charge who is on the premises at all times while the service is open.

(2) The files of both adults currently employed in the service were reviewed as part of the inspection.

(b) Four written and verified references were available from a source other than a previous employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for both staff members.

(d) Police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of 6 months.

(4) Evidence was available to show that both staff members held at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(3) The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times and that ratios were maintained as required. On the day of inspection two adults were caring for 13 children.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

- (1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*
- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
 - (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
 - (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
 - (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
 - (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
 - (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
 - (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
 - (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
 - (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of twelve enrolment forms were reviewed. All forms contained the required information required in line with (a-i) above.

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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.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The entrance to the service was secured and staff were observed to attend the door to allow access. This prevented unauthorised persons entering the service and also prevented children leaving the service unsupervised.
- The outdoor area was adequately secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised.
- Blind cords were secured out of reach of the children.
- Flexes were adequately secured to prevent injury to the children.
- Toys and equipment were maintained in good working order free from hazards.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, dispensed soap and dispensed hand towels were available to facilitate handwashing.
- Pedal operated bins were used for disposal of contaminated items.
- Windows were opened to allow fresh air to circulate in the care room.
- Lunches which were brought from home were refrigerated as children arrived in the service to prevent spoiling of perishable items.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed.
- Staff were aware of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire emergency.
- Attendance records were maintained in a timely manner to ensure all children were accounted for in an evacuation.

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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.

Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available on the premises, stored safely and accessible to staff as needed at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did not ensure that a staff member trained in First aid Response (FAR) was available to the children at all times. On the day of inspection none of the staff held an up-to-date certificate in FAR or paediatric first aid. An immediate action notice was issued to the provider.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) FAR booked for 11th October 2023. Certificate will forward on completion. Renewal date noted and logged to update FAR certificate.

Supporting documentation submitted

Email confirmation reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective action taken by the registered provider will address the non-compliance under Regulation 25, however regulatory compliance remains outstanding until this has been completed.

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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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
 - (b) an employee, and
 - (c) an authorised person.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation
- (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

- (4) A notice detailing the procedure to follow in the event of a fire emergency was displayed within the care room.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) (a) A record of fire drills was not available for review during the inspection.
- (b) A maintenance certificate was not available to show that the firefighting equipment or smoke alarms had been service within the last 12 months.
- (2)(c) The record referred to in paragraph (1) was not provided to the inspector for review.
- (3) The registered provider had not maintained the record referred to above for a period of five years. The registered provider advised that these are shredded at the end of the ECCE term in June each year.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

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Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) (a) Fire drills commence at the end of each month and had not yet taken place for September. Fire drills take place at the end of each month.

(b) Fire Extinguisher and smoke alarm have been serviced and up to date cert obtained. Renewal service date logged and noted for service of fire extinguisher and smoke alarm.

(2)(c) & (3) File division created to maintain fire drills log for five years.

Supporting documentation submitted

Maintenance certificates for firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were reviewed.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance under Regulation 26.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the service had a valid insurance certificate which will expire on the 27th of March 2024.