

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUTUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY364
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Name of Service:	Park Montessori
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Address of Service:	41 Farney Park, Sandymount, Dublin 4, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D04 VX40
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Name of Registered Provider:	Joanne O'Reilly
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	17/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	Not Applicable
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate - Tusla Child and Family Agency Brunel Building, Floor 7 Heuston South Quarter Dublin 8, D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	M Bermingham
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).

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Description of service

Park Montessori is registered to provide sessional care for up to 16 children aged 2 - 6 years and operating hours are 9:00 - 12:30. The service operates from a purpose-built room attached to a residence and there is a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the building. The service is also registered to provide school-age care.

Staffing

Two adults are employed by the service in addition to the registered provider. On the day of inspection, the registered provider and one adult were working directly with children and a third adult is available for relief work when required.

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, health, welfare and development of child, 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. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform

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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.

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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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.*

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(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge and/or the deputy were rostered to be present on the premises for the duration of the opening hours.
- (c) A clear management structure was in place evidenced by observing the operation of the service and through discussion with staff.

(2), (3) and (4)

No new adults joined the service since the last inspection dated 3 October 2025 and Garda vetting renewals were in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate's regulatory notice requiring three yearly renewal. This was determined through a pre-inspection review of previous inspection information and discussion with the registered provider. Therefore, Regulation 9(2), (3) and (4) were not inspected on this occasion.

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.

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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 was adhered to at all times during the inspection; there were 2 adults working with 15 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

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

The following observations demonstrated how children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service and how appropriate and suitable care practices were in place:

Morning snack was provided by the service and consisted of corn cakes, cream-cheese, bananas, and raspberries, which were served in dishes placed in the centre of the table. Children showed independence in their use of delph, glassware, and cutlery as they self-served, passed the serving dishes among each other, and spread the cream-cheese and fruit on the crackers; children tidied tables when finished. Adults supported and guided the children with reminders of good table manners. Adults provided additional food on request and poured water which remained available in a jug at the food station throughout the morning. Snack time was relaxed and enjoyable with children talking and laughing socially among themselves.

There were a variety of learning opportunities provided as detailed on the displayed daily routine and observed throughout the morning. Children engaged with puzzles, letters, painting, and circle time. Outside children engaged in self-directed play comprising of physical running around in pretend games, an obstacle course, and rockers. Children also engaged with sand, water and bubbles. Children appeared to enjoy their play within both small and larger social groups. Transitions through the routine ran smoothly with adults communicating between

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each other, reminding children what is happening, and supporting children to tidy up. Adults used a playful game to transition children outside safely and responded to children's requests throughout the session.

The learning environment was bright and spacious with a large window providing a view of the garden. Materials and equipment were easily accessible to children on low open shelving and from dedicated stations, for example a cleaning station. There were also toys and materials for imaginary play available such as animals, blocks, train tracks and construction material. A rest area was provided by way of a soft reclined chair and a floor mat that could be rolled out, with a selection of books available. The environment was print and image rich displaying current learning topics on nature and local community landmarks. The outside area consisted of a large garden with natural elements to include grass, trees and shrubs along with a paved area and equipment included a playhouse with a slide.

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 following measures were taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children, and provide a safe environment. This was evidenced by observation of practice, review of the environment and documentation, and discussion with staff:

General Safety:

- The entrance into the service was appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or children exiting the service unsupervised.
- The outdoor area was enclosed and secure.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- Storage area doors were secured and inaccessible to children.
- Toys and play equipment were in good condition.

Infection Control:

- The premises, environment, equipment, and materials appeared clean and were maintained in a hygienic condition in line with the service's infection control policy and cleaning records were updated.
- Appropriate hand washing was facilitated through the provision of running water, liquid soap, and paper towels.

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- Children were supported to wash their hands after using the toilet, after outdoor play, and before eating.
- Staff were observed washing their hands before serving snack.
- Waste was inaccessible to children and managed appropriately with the use of pedal bin.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated their familiarity with the procedures and practices in place for medication in line with the services policy on medication.

Fire Safety:

- The emergency escape route and exit were unobstructed and clearly signposted.
- Staff outlined the procedures to evacuate children in the event of a fire and knew the location of the assembly point in line with the services procedures that were displayed.

Non-Compliance Information

The following measures were not in place to adequately safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children and provide a safe environment:

General Safety:

1. Running water available to children for hand washing, in the sanitary room located nearest the front door, measured at 44.3°C at 10:45 and 43.8°C at 12:03. This temperature exceeds recommended safe limits and may pose a scalding risk to children and is at variance with the service's infection control policy which states that warm running water will not exceed 43°C. This non-compliance was found on the previous inspection dated 3 October 2025 and the registered provider did not submit a corrective or preventive action in response.

Fire Safety:

2. The fire drill route described by the registered provider did not follow the specified fire exit signs. The registered provider described the fire drill route as exiting a door to the garden, with no further exit available off the premises. This poses a risk that in the event of a fire there would be no means of escape beyond the garden.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

1. The registered provider stated that the temperature was reduced on the boiler and that the temperature of water will be taken every month and recorded.

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2. The registered provider stated that the route of the fire drill was changed with an extra fire drill completed in June, and that fire drills will continue to be completed using the new assembly point in the front garden.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation was submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The actions stated by the registered provider will adequately address the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 and will be assessed on the next inspection.

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) Fire drills were completed monthly and the last fire drill was recorded to have taken place on 17 May 2026, as evidenced through a review of written records and discussions with the registered provider and staff.
 - (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. Records showed that the firefighting equipment was serviced on 21 April 2026 and the fire extinguishers in June 2026.
- (4)
- Notices of the evacuation procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations within the service, in the hallway and in the room.