

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL211
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Name of Service:	Mi Casa Montessori Pre School
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Address of Service:	15 Summerfield Meadows, Dublin 15
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Eircode:	D15 TAA0
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Name of Registered Provider:	Tetyana Dobrovolska
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	11/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Area 1 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	T Nelson
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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Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

Description of service

Mi Casa Montessori Preschool is a sessional service located in a residential area of Dublin 15 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 11 children aged 2 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday during term time. The service operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme sessional service from 8.30am to 11.30am and 12.00pm to 3.00pm. Mi Casa Montessori Preschool operates from the ground floor of a residential dwelling. There are sanitary facilities located off the hallway and a fully enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider and one staff member work in the service. There are an additional two adults available to provide support for the service when required. There were two adults present on the day of the service including the registered provider.

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.

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The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

- Regulation 9(1), (2), (4) Management and Recruitment
- Regulation 11(1), (3) Staffing Levels
- Regulation 19(1)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of child
- Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child
- Regulation 25 First Aid

The outdoor play area was not inspected on the day of the inspection.

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.

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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 named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A review of the staff attendance log showed the person in charge was present at all times.
- (2) Discussion with the registered provider established that there was one adult new to the service since the last inspection on the 16 June 2022. The file of that adult was reviewed in full, along with Garda vetting declarations of the three other adults who have direct access to children within the service.

The registered provider had completed the following checks:

- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all four adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to

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renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(4) Not applicable as the adult was not providing direct care to the children.

Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not ensure the following:

- (2)
- (a) (b) Documentation was not available to show there was appropriate consideration of references. There was one written reference available which was not validated and there was no second reference available.
 - (d) International police vetting was not available for the adult who had resided in a state other than Ireland for more than six months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)

Corrective action: outstanding references and verifications were sourced.

Preventive action: Two Reference letters will be requested and verified before the commencement of the employment or voluntary work.

(2)(d)

Corrective action: international police vetting is now available.

Preventive action: the service provider will always request the international police vetting for each adult who had resided in a state other than Ireland for more than six months as an adult.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)(b) validated references were made available

(2)(d) police vetting was made available.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has reviewed the corrective and preventative actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 have been adequately addressed.

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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) There was an adequate number of adults available to the children throughout the inspection. Two adults were available, and the ratios were maintained with the registered provider providing direct care to the ten children aged from 3 to 5 years old.

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-

(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

(1)(b) Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed, as evidenced by the following:

- Practices such as snack time were observed to be a pleasant sociable experience for the children. Staff sat with children and engaged in conversation. Parents supplied the snacks, and the contents were observed to contain healthy food options such as fruits, vegetables, yogurt and crackers. Children's drinks were stored on a low shelf and were accessible to the children throughout the inspection.
- Children were observed to access the toilet freely and independently.
- The staff interacted with the children in a respectful, warm and sensitive manner. Appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication such as low tones, eye level contact, touch, encouragement and other

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strategies were observed. These strategies can facilitate emotional and social development in young children.

- The experiences and activities provided to the children in the room was suitable to the age and stage of development of the children. For example, staff discussed how they plan for learning by focusing on the children's strengths and interests. Appropriate activities following the interests of children can promote independent decision making and foster meaningful play experiences.
- Transitions were observed to be positive and smooth experiences for the children. Clear verbal instruction was given for tidy up time, signalling the transition to snack time which was timely and seamless.
- Children had the freedom to move throughout the care room and independently choose their own activities. The room was bright and within the recommended temperature range, and children were observed to wear slippers for the duration of the session. This provided for a comfortable experience for the children's play.
- Engagement with families and parents was facilitated via an online software application and conversation at drop-off and collection. The registered provider reported that parents were given the children's learning journals at stages throughout the term where they were invited to give feedback or suggestion's on supports for their child. This can promote a sense of welcome and positive engagement.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service ensured there was adequate and suitable furniture and equipment available, for example:

- The furniture and equipment in the room was observed to be adequate for the number of children in the room, it was appropriate for the age range and stage of development of the children, and was well maintained, durable and easy to clean.
- The toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving, visible to the children, and were grouped in themed areas of interest such as home and role play, maths, construction, investigation, language and

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small world areas. Themed areas of interest facilitate children to have a more focused engagement in their play experiences.

- Each of the themed interest areas were well resourced with a wide range of props, materials and accessories accessible to the children according to their age and stage of development. This facilitated a range of play experiences including creative, imaginative and language play and promoted exploration and curiosity.
- Daily routines were displayed and labelling with imagery and text was used effectively to signal where things belong. This can support a sense of comfort in knowing where things go and what will happen next.

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 children:

General Safety:

- The entrance was secured on arrival to the service, and entry was managed by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Blind cords were observed to be secured out of reach of children.
- The kitchen was observed to be inaccessible on the day of the inspection.
- Children's fruit was observed to be cut into appropriate bite sized pieces.

Infection Control:

- The premises were in a clean and hygienic condition and documented up to date cleaning records were available and displayed in the premises.
- Children's snacks from home were observed to be refrigerated.
- The premises were in a clean and hygienic condition and documented up to date cleaning records were available and displayed in the premises.

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- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and single use hand towels was available at the wash hand basin.
- Staff were observed to remind children to hand wash before mealtime.

Fire Safety:

- The emergency exit was clearly indicated and there was evacuation procedures displayed in the care room.
- Children attendance was accurately recorded in the attendance log.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for one adult however, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Corrective action: The registered provider is in the process of applying for registration as a relevant organisation for vetting to enable the adult to renew their garda vetting.
1. Preventive action: Service provider will request Garda Vetting every three years for each employee and the provider themselves when the process by bureau is completed. The adult will not be allowed to work directly with children until the vetting is issued.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Evidence of email from vetting authority.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has reviewed the corrective and preventative actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been addressed and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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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

- (1) The service provided evidence that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the care room.