

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL211					
Name of Service:	Mi Casa Montessori Pre-School					
Address of Service:	15 Summerfield Meadows Dublin 15 D15TAA0					
Email Address:	tataina.montessori@gmail.com					
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Tetyana Dobrovolska					
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒			
Date of Inspection:	1	6	0	6	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM		8	PM		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin, Dublin 15 D15 CF9K					
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Nelson Early Years Inspector					
Title:	S. Murray Inspection and Registration Manager					

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.
---------------------------------	-----------------

Description of Service	Established in 2012, Mi Casa Montessori Pre-School is a privately owned service providing sessional care to children from the age of 2 years to school going age. The service provides two pre-school sessions daily, from 8:30-11:30 and 12:00-15:00.
Premises	The service is located on the ground floor of a residential premises in a residential estate in Dublin 15 and consists of two interconnecting care rooms and access to toilets. There is access to an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	There are two staff who work directly with the children, the registered provider who is the Person in Charge and another staff member who is recruited under the Access and Inclusion Model. There is an additional staff member available to provide relief cover for the service when required. All three staff employed hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher.
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 Inspectors wish 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 named person to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge was present on the day and throughout the inspection.

The files of all staff members were reviewed:

(2)(a), (b) Two validated written references from a past employer or source other than a previous employer were available for each of the three staff.

(c) The registered provider ensured that Garda vetting disclosures were considered for staff prior to their employment. Completed Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the three staff who work directly with the pre-school children.

(d) The registered provider ensured that international police vetting disclosures were considered for adults prior to their employment and this was available for two staff who had lived outside of the state for six months or more as an adult.

(4) The registered provider ensured that all staff working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times. Two staff were allocated to work directly with the eight children who were present on the day of inspection.
- (8)(c) There was a minimum of two adults on the premises throughout the inspection. The review of the staff roster provided for a minimum of two adults to be on the premises at all times of opening.

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:

- (1)(a) The registered provider ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service as reflected in the following headings:

Basic Needs:

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- Snacks and drinks were provided by the parents for the children which were refrigerated until snack time. Drinks of water were freely available to the children. Children enjoyed a social experience at snack time, where a child was observed getting their place mat and joining the group at a later stage than the other children, facilitating independent decision making and choice.
- Staff members treated the children with respect and positive regard, in particular towards children with additional needs by supporting their inclusion and involvement in activities. Examples of the child led approach were staff anticipating challenges and responding appropriately and developing images to provide visual cues on timetabling to promote routine and predictability.
- Children's sense of individual culture, identity and inclusion was supported through various activities such as artifacts from children's homelife - the 'places where we come from' shelf, a family wall, images of the children displayed throughout the setting, individual boxes for personal belongings and artwork, and the children independently signing in and out every day using the 'look whoo whoos in our room' visual display activity.
- Children were observed to engage in both free play or structured activity facilitated by adults in individual, small or large play groups.
- Children had access to the outdoor play environment on the day of the inspection.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The furniture provided in the room was at a level appropriate for the children attending the service and toys, equipment and play materials were accessible and visible to children on low level shelving.
- The care rooms were divided into well-resourced interest areas including a home area equipped with a range of appropriate props, small world play area, block play area, arts and crafts, a range of jigsaws, threading and sorting toys and a library area. These interest areas supported a range of play types such as sensory play, social play, constructive play, fantasy play and games with rules.
- Curiosity and scientific enquiry were facilitated through a curiosity table, maths and language props, books were selected weekly to provoke discussion and support emergent interests and a recycling area was available to prompt interest in the natural environment and materials. The theme of the week was the life cycle of the frog.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- There were images of the children and their family on display throughout the care rooms to promote identity and belonging. Visual and text displays were available on various topics to support emergent literacy and emotional and behavioural regulation such as the setting 'rule book' which was developed in collaboration with the children.
- The outdoor play environment, situated to the rear of the premises was fully enclosed and surfaced with paving on one side and bark on the other. Play equipment included a large wooden climbing frame with a range of steps and ladders, slide and a standing platform. There was also a picnic table, chalk boards with chalk available on the walls, a mud kitchen with associated props and a swinging bench seat. The children were observed to enjoy their outdoor play where they were given the opportunity to engage in physical play which facilitated appropriate risk and challenging play experiences.

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 registered provider took the following reasonable measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending the service demonstrated by the following examples:

General Safety:

- The service had an appropriate system in place to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the toys and the safe storage of cleaning agents and hazardous equipment.
- There was a risk assessment in place where the rooms and outdoor area were checked for hazards.
- All cleaning agents and sharp equipment were stored out of reach of the children in locked presses or on high shelves.
- There was a safety gate in place restricting the children access to the stairs.
- Available toys and equipment were clean and in a good state of repair.

Infection Control:

- Documented up to date cleaning records were available and displayed in the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	- The premises were in a clean and hygienic condition. - Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at the wash hand basin used by the children. - Staff were observed supporting children to hand wash before snack time.
Non-Compliance Information:	The registered provider did not ensure that all reasonable measures had been taken to safeguard the health, welfare and safety of children as outlined below: General Safety: - The door from the hallway to the kitchen was not secure. The kitchen was accessible to the children on the day of inspection. - The legs on the tables in the care rooms were loose causing the tables to be unstable. This poses an injury risk to children. - The workbench on the mud kitchen in the outdoor play area was damaged and splintered. This poses an injury risk to the children. - Nettles were overhanging the fenced area to the rear of the outdoor play area. This poses a risk to the children. Infection Control: - The children did not wash their hands on return from outdoor play. This poses of risk of infection.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> GENERAL SAFETY: - The door from the hallway to the kitchen has a lock in place. The service provider will train the staff again and put a sign beside the door to remind the staff to close the door every day. - The legs on the tables in the care rooms have been mounted with glue so they cannot be removed. - The workbench on the mud kitchen in the outdoor play area has been removed and a new workbench will be installed before September 2022. - The nettles have been removed. INFECTION CONTROL: - The children will now wash hands on return from outdoor play and this point will be included as part of the daily routine. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u>

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

GENERAL SAFETY:

1. The registered provider will train the staff again and put a sign beside the door to remind the staff to close the door every day.
2. Table legs will be checked every day during the daily risk assessment.
3. A more durable, weather resistant material will be used for the outdoor workbench.
4. The Daily Risk Assessment checklist for Outdoor Space now includes a check for nettles.

INFECTION CONTROL:

5. A Daily Washing Hands schedule including after outdoor play has been developed and will be followed and signed off every day.

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED

GENERAL SAFETY:

Photographic evidence of the risks addressed along with updated risk assessments were submitted.

INFECTION CONTROL:

Updated handwashing schedule was submitted.

Summary Comment:

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

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 for children was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

(2)(a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.

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 of fire drills was available on the premises with the last drill dated as having been carried out on the 5th May 2022. (b) An up-to-date maintenance record was available for the Fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the premises. The fire extinguishers were serviced in October 2022 and the smoke alarms were maintained in October 2022. (4) A procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in each of the care rooms
-------------------------	--

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 -Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—
 (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,

Non-Compliance Information:	(c) The care room to the rear of the premises had no natural lighting and did not provide enough light for an inviting space for children to participate comfortably in activities.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> The registered provider has removed the paper covering the glass door allowing natural light into the room. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> The door will remain uncovered. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> Photographic evidence was submitted.
Summary Comment	The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 29 has been adequately addressed.