

# TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015KY016

**Name of Service:** Bright Sparks Montessori

**Address of Service:** Asdee National School, Asdee Village, Asdee, Co. Kerry

**Email Address:** marieenright@yahoo.ie

**Name of Registered Service Provider:** Marie Enright

**Type of service registered:** Sessional ☒

**Date(s) of Inspection:** 1 1 1 2 2 0 2 0

**No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:** AM 8 PM

**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Áras An Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

**Inspection undertaken by :** N. Reidy  
**Title:** Early Years Inspector

## Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

| Governance | Health, Welfare and Development | Safety |
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## 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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| <b>Description of Service</b> | <p>This Sessional service is located in a rural setting of Asdee, Co. Kerry.</p> <p>There were 8 children present on the day of inspection. A service is provided to children aged between 2 years 6 months and 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9 am and 12:30pm. The premise is a single storey building situated in Asdee National school. A designated outdoor play area located at the rear of the building was available and accessible to the children attending.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Staffing</b>               | <p>There was 1 adult present on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work in the service she does however work in her second early years service located in Ballybunion, Co. Kerry.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Methodology</b>            | <p>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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information obtained through examination of documentation</li> <li>• Direct observation</li> <li>• Discussion with relevant staff</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service.</p> <p>The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including: clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.</p> <p>The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p> |
| <b>Acknowledgements</b>       | <p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Person in Charge and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## GOVERNANCE

### Part III - Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (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.
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

#### Compliance Information:

(2)(a) No staff files were presented for inspection following confirmation with the registered provider that no staff members commenced employment in the service since the last inspection.

(b), (c) & (d) Not applicable no files were inspected.

(7)(a)

The designated person in charge informed the inspector that the revised policies and procedures were reviewed by the registered provider and the herself working in the service prior to the service re-opening.

## Part III - Management and Staff

### Regulation 10 - Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

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| Compliance Information: | <p>The inspection focused on the following policies and procedures of the service which had been reviewed and revised to respond to COVID-19 and were deemed to meet the requirements: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Infection Control</li> <li>• Drop off and collection procedures</li> <li>• Correct hand washing procedures.</li> </ul> <p>The policies and procedures were communicated to parents and the person in charge in the service prior to the service re-opening.</p> |
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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) 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) There was 1 adult working with 8 children aged between 3 and 5 years attending on a sessional basis throughout the period of the inspection. The adult child ratio was correct.
- (3) The minimum number of adults was maintained.
- (8)(c) The person in charge works single-handedly in the service. A second person familiar with the operation of the service within close distance of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the provider is at all times available to attend the service to assist in the case of an emergency.

## 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:

#### **SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:**

- The designated person in charge caring for the children on the day of the inspection was observed to be kind, caring and understanding of individual children's needs.
- The service communicates with parents via text, 'Whats App', email and per phone.
- Colourful posters on hand washing were in place at children's eye level near the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation.
- Information and posters were displayed on the premises to promote parents, guardians and staff to practice effective hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and social distancing in response to COVID-19.

#### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

- The spacious playroom was bright, colourful and well ventilated.
- The playroom was resourced with various interest areas appealing to all areas of children's development including fine motor, gross motor and cognitive and language development.
- Low level open shelving was provided to facilitate easy access for the children to the materials and equipment.
- The various play materials included for example a kitchen and home area, matching games, a farm and farm animals, train tracks, chalk boards and chalks, puzzles, blocks, books and crafts and painting supplies.
- Additional play equipment and materials were stored on the premises the designated person in charge informed the inspector the toys are rotated in the playroom in line with the curriculum.
- A rest and relaxation area with a soft rug on the floor was provided in the playroom.
- An adequate number of child sized tables and chairs were available for the children.
- A designated fully enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear of the building was available and accessible to the children attending the service. There was a mud kitchen, hoops and bikes for the children to play with.

## 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.*

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| Compliance Information:                                             | <p><b>GENERAL SAFETY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main entrance door to the premise was secured with a high level closure device to prevent children gaining unsupervised access out of the building and to prevent un-authorized persons entering.</li> <li>The outdoor play area was enclosed and secured.</li> <li>All cleaning products seen on the day of the inspection were stored out of the children's reach.</li> <li>Attendance records for the staff and children were maintained on a daily basis.</li> </ul> <p><b>INFECTION CONTROL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels to ensure effective hand washing by the children and adult.</li> <li>A supply of hand sanitiser was available indoors and in the outdoor play area where it was mounted on the timber fence.</li> <li>Foot operated pedal bins were provided in the childcare room and in the sanitary accommodation for the hygienic disposal of waste.</li> <li>Disposable tissues were available and accessible in the playroom.</li> <li>The tables were cleaned prior to children having their snack.</li> <li>Children were observed washing their hands at various times during the session supervised by the adult for example after using the toilet and prior to eating.</li> <li>A fridge was in situ in the playroom for the hygienic storage of children's individually labelled perishable food items.</li> <li>A storage box for toys that children may put in their mouths was available and the toys were washed accordingly at the end of the session.</li> </ul> <p><b>SAFE SLEEP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable, this service operates on a sessional basis and sleep facilities are not required.</li> </ul> |
| Non-Compliance Information:                                         | <p><b>INFECTION CONTROL:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play equipment and materials were stored in the adult sanitary accommodation which posed a risk of the spread of infection.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider | <p>The registered provider stated that: -</p> <p><u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>The materials are being removed to a different location for storage so as to stop the risk of infection.</p> <p><u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>No materials will be stored in this area.</p> <p><u>EVIDENCE</u></p> <p>A photograph of the sanitary accommodation free of play equipment was received</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Summary Comment:                                                    | The non-compliance has been rectified therefore the requirement has been met.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |