

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015LK172

Name of Service: Teach Mhuire Montessori

Address of Service: 12 Colbert Terrace
Abbeyfeale
Co Limerick.

Email Address: teachmhuire@live.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider: Ms Mary Barrett

Type of service registered: Sessional ☒

Date(s) of Inspection: 1 9 1 0 2 0 2 0

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 13 PM

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate
St. Joseph's Health Campus
2nd Floor South East Wing Mulgrave St
Limerick

Inspection undertaken by : J Ryan
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).



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Conditions If Applicable

Not Applicable

Description of Service	This is a Private Montessori school which first opened in 2002. The service provides sessional care and education to preschool children aged 2.8 years to 5 years of age. The service operates from 09.00hrs to 12.00hrs and the setting caters for a maximum of 26 children.
Staffing	The service is located in a two storey house in an urban area. There are 3 sessional play rooms in operation. The service has an outdoor play area located to the rear of the premises where children have access to outdoor play equipment.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (Inspectorate) is the independent statutory regulator of early year's 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 year's 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 announced 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 and advance notice had been given to the service of the planned inspection. This minimised disruption to service provision while services focus on re-opening and familiarising staff and children with new ways of working. 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 to the Registered Provider on 22/10/2020 as there was a member of staff present who did not have Garda Vetting documentation available.
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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) There was one new member of staff employed since the last inspection of the service.
- The registered provider had ensured that all other employees working in the service was suitable and competent as the following documents were available on file for those staff employed.
- (a) References from the person's past employers and in particular the most recent employer.
 - (b) References from reputable sources in the case of a person who had no past employers.
 - (c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of two staff.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for one member of staff who had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 months.
- (7)(a) Staff had received appropriate information and training before the service had reopened at a team meeting in relation to the services revised policies and procedures pertaining to COVID-19 including:
- Infection control policy, Risk management policy, Incident plan policy
 - Training on correct procedures for hand washing
 - Revised drop off and collection procedures
 - Revised cleaning schedules

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Non-Compliance Information:	(c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of one staff was not available.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> (c) Garda vetting documentation has been submitted for the one member of staff <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> (c) Recruitment policies will be reviewed and updated. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> The Garda vetting documentation has been submitted for the one member of staff.
Summary Comment:	The Regulatory requirements of Regulation 9 have been met.

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.

Compliance Information:	- A risk management policy was in place which identified any potential risks and the controls required to reduce or eliminate the risk. The policy had been reviewed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. - The policy on infection control had been updated to include infection control measures for COVID-19.
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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

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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.

Compliance Information:	(1) At all times during the period of the inspection the person in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children. (2) The minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained and an adequate number of staff were present. There were 3 staff working directly with 13 pre-school children for the morning session.
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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)

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- On arrival at the service there 3 Pods evident as the service operates from 3 rooms.
- Staff were observed to be caring in their interactions with the children. They worked well as a team supported by daily informal discussions and regular meetings for reflection and planning. Staff were observed to be interested in the children, listened to them and spoke to them using soft tones of voice and used positive language.
- The Keyperson system was evident in the service which enabled children form secure relationship with the staff caring for them and to facilitate easier contact tracing should there be a case of COVID-19 in the service. The service had appointed a member of staff as a Covid officer and all staff had completed a 'return to work safely course' and were available to respond to parents queries.
- At drop off and collection times parents came to the entrance door at staggered times which helped reduce the spread of infection as parents were not allowed congregate or enter the building unless necessary.
- Staff were observed to clean play equipment, shelving, tables, chairs and sanitary accommodation when the session finished and the children had left the service.
- Staff were observed to maintain social distancing of 2 meters in so far as was possible while indoors.
- Staff operated in partnership with parents by providing regular emails, letters and text messages to them in light of COVID-19 restrictions. When questioned staff were aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 and the requirement to inform management and contact parents in a timely manner if they had concerns.
- Parents had received an updated policy and response plan for the service in relation to COVID- 19.Detailed information in relation to COVID- 19 was available and displayed on the front window of the service for parents to read.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- This sessional service was operated from 3 rooms which comprised of 3 Pods, sanitary accommodation areas and an outdoor play area.
- Adequate and varied play equipment suited to the age and stage of development of the child was available in the service and in the outdoor play area. Staff were observed washing toys and play equipment with warm soapy water following the end of the morning session.
- The Preschool Pod was spacious and bright with shelving available to display play equipment which was easy to wash. Defined interest areas included a reading area, construction area, home corner, puzzles, manipulative play area, table top area, and small world area.
- The outdoor play area consisted of an all-weather surface and grass and was surrounded by high walls and gated.

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:

- On arrival to the service, the entrance door leading into the pre-school facility was secured and a hand sanitising station had been set up.
- Safe storage in a press in the kitchen area was available for cleaning agents and equipment.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer was kept out of reach of young children and children were supervised while using it. Children and staff were observed to sanitize their hands on arrival at the service.
- The playroom was well ventilated as windows and the exit door were observed to be open allowing fresh air to circulate.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- A system was in place for staff to confirm to the person in charge that they were well and did not have any COVID-19 related symptoms at the start of each shift. Declaration forms were signed by all staff and parents prior to the service reopening to help prevent the spread of the infection.

Part VI - Safety

- Staff had been advised in relation to the requirement to self-isolate where appropriate.
- Staff were aware of what to do if a child or adult became symptomatic while in the service by contacting the COVID-19 officer and moving the child or adult to the isolation area whilst maintaining social distancing of 2 meters. The designated isolation area was located in one of the rooms upstairs.
- A supply of Personal Protective Equipment was available and used when required by staff in the service which included hand sanitizers, disposable single-use plastic aprons, gloves, a thermometer and face masks.
- A written cleaning record was available where high contact areas were cleaned thoroughly each afternoon. High touch surfaces such as door handles, light switches, backs of chairs and table tops were observed to be cleaned frequently during the inspection.
- Play equipment in the outdoor area was cleaned after each session and a record of cleaning was maintained.
- All toys/materials/equipment available to the children were cleaned following each session.
- The playrooms and sanitary areas were adequately ventilated by natural forms of ventilation.
- Personal waste including used tissues and all cleaning waste was appropriately disposed of in foot operated pedal bins.
- A supply of warm water, liquid soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer and bins for disposal of paper towels were available.
- Hand washing was observed to occur regularly and at the required times by both the staff and children in the service. When questioned staff were aware of the requirement to wash their hands thoroughly for a minimum of 20 seconds. An additional sink with hot water was available in the playroom and thorough hand washing by both adults and children was observed on the day.
- Adults were aware of the correct measures for coughing and sneezing and therefore could help children follow this process if required using disposable tissue.
- Visitors or external persons had been restricted in the service.

Part VI - Safety

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The person in charge ensured that complete and accurate daily records of attendance were kept for all children, adults and visitors to the service to support contact tracing if required.• Visitors signed in on arrival at the service and signed out when they left the service. |
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