

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015MH159

Name of Service: Red Door Montessori

Address of Service: 20 Gort Na Ri
Trim
Co. Meath

Email Address: rdmontessori@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Ms Mary Magee

Type of service registered: Sessional ☒

Date(s) of Inspection: 1 7 0 5 2 0 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 7 PM

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Family Resource Centre
Commons Road
Navan
Co. Meath

Inspection undertaken by: C Tunney
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



Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016
REF: F09: Version 4: 16.10.2020
1.0

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Description of Service	Red Door Montessori is a privately operated early years' service, located in an urban setting in Trim, Co. Meath. The childcare service provides a sessional service to children aged from 2 years 6 months to 6 years and operates from 09.30hrs to 12.30hrs Monday to Friday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. There is one pre-school room, the outdoor play area consisted of a hard surfaced area. There is parking available to facilitate parents and staff to the front of the pre-school.
Staffing	There are two staff members employed, which includes the registered provider. A second staff member is employed under the Access and Inclusion Model. The registered provider was the designated person in charge.
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 inspector wishes 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

- (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.
- (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:

Following a review of the staff files and a discussion with the registered provider of the service, it was confirmed one person was employed since the last inspection under the access and inclusion model (AIM). The inspector reviewed this file during the inspection carried out on 17/05/2021.

(2) (a) There were 2 written references available for the staff member.

(c) A Garda Vetting disclosure was available.

(d) Police Vetting was available for the staff member who had lived outside the state for more than six months.

(7)(a) The registered provider submitted a copy of the updated policies and procedures for the service. Staff members had attended multiple training such as, COVID 19 & Early Childhood Services Guidance for Managers and Practitioners and training on Infection Prevention and Control. Staff declaration and training records were available for review.

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 Covid-19 folder was available on the premises for staff members to refer to, detailing the policies, procedures and statements of the service and updated policies in relation to prevention of infection in relation to Covid-19. The service submitted the requested policies to the Inspectorate in advance of the inspection and these were found to be satisfactory, such as: • Infection control policy and enhanced cleaning procedures. • Completed self-assessment checklist. • Daily risk assessment of the pre-school environment. • Return to work checklists. • COVID 19 response plan which included the procedure to deal with a suspected Covid-19 case, isolation room identified. • Procedure for drop off and collection.
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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.*

Compliance Information:	(1) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children on arrival of the inspector at 09:45am on 17th May 2021. (3) The adult/child ratio was maintained such as; Two adults cared for 7 pre-school children aged between 3 years to 6 years, who attended for ECCE sessional service.
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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:

The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated in the service, taking cognisance that the time spent by the inspector in the premises was reduced in order to minimise risk, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BASIC CARE NEEDS OF CHILDREN

- The children's snack provided by their parents was healthy and consisted of small sandwiches, fruit and a drink. The staff members encouraged the children to enjoy their snack in an unhurried manner.
- The staff members were observed to be responsive to the children's cues for assistance. Children were encouraged to be independent with toileting where appropriate and assistance was provided when required.
- The children's personal care was attended to as required.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The staff members were kind and they encouraged and praised the children while doing activities such as during the painting activity. Each child was given individual attention during this time. Supportive interactions between the staff and children was clear such as, "that's lovely, do you want to give yourself some hair, or a smile". The staff members encouraged and supported the children in their play choices. Children were seen playing happily in small groups or working on an activity of their choice.
- The staff members communicated with the children using warm tones and respectful language which was reflected in the calm atmosphere in the room.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The care room was bright and colourful with child friendly art material displayed in addition to the children's art work which enhanced the atmosphere. While the room was small, the layout was clear which facilitated the children to play in the defined interest areas which were adequately resourced.
- Play materials were suitable the age and stage of development of the children such as a mixture of Montessori equipment, arts and crafts, puzzles, home corner area and a book area.
- The play resources available to the children were accessible, organised and stored on low level shelving. The children were able to select and replace items and materials of interest. The materials available promoted fun and learning and engaged the children in interest areas.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

Non-Compliance Information:	Material and Physical Environment The outdoor play area did not contain a range of enriching experiences for all children. Designated interest areas were not available. Play material available such as the mud kitchen was not resourced adequately and the playhouse was not equipped for children to maximise play opportunities.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	Corrective Action My service closed for the summer on 2-Jul-2021. It will reopen on 30-Aug-2021. Preventive Action Additional resources (which were removed due to Covid hygiene control measures) will be reintroduced to the Mud Kitchen and Playhouse before reopening at end of August. An additional Sandbox (which was removed due to Covid hygiene control measures) will be re-introduced into the play area in August.
Summary Comment:	The response from the registered provider has been accepted. The outdoor play area will be equipped with a range of developmentally appropriate experiences for the children attending the service. Regulation 19 has been addressed.

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: The registered provider ensured all reasonable measures were put in place prior to and following reopening of the service to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending such as; • The external doors and the outdoor play area were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the Early Years' service. • Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children on a high shelf. • Measures were taken to promote and facilitate social distancing. Parents do not enter the building, instead they drop off their children at designated pod access / collection point areas. • Attendance records were maintained on a daily basis and a staff roster was available.
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Infection Control:

- Infection control practices observed during the inspection were satisfactory such as, hand washing was carried out at recommended times. Warm running water was available, along with a supply of liquid soap, paper towels.
- A supply of personal protective equipment was available such as, a supply of gloves, aprons and masks.
- The patio door leading onto the outdoor area was opened to allow fresh air to flow through the room.
- Cleaning records were available to the inspector for review which demonstrated that cleaning was carried out on a daily basis. A supply of cleaning agents was available.
- Systems were in place in relation to management of a suspected Covid-19 case in respect of a child or an adult. The staff had been advised in relation to the requirement to self-isolate where appropriate. The staff were aware of what to do if a child or adult became symptomatic while in the service and had identified an isolation area.
- There was evidence that the service had implemented measures to maintain safe hygiene practices and social distancing by having information posters to inform and promote social distancing practice.