

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015OY045

Name of Service: The Montessori Clubhouse

Address of Service: Cluid Community Centre
Scurragh
Birr
Co. Offaly

Email Address: montessoriclubhouse@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Ms. Arlene Finnerty

Type of service registered: Sessional ☒

Date of Inspection: 0 3 1 2 2 0 2 0

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 5 PM N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate,
Tusla, Child and Family Agency,
Primary Care Centre,
Church Avenue,
Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Inspection undertaken by : Ms. K Murphy
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	The service is registered as a sessional service providing a service to children aged between two and six years on a Monday to Friday basis. A sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) services operate in the morning between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00 with an afternoon session operating from 12.15 to 15.15. The Early Years' Service is located in a single storey community centre and provides one pre-school room and a break out area. An outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the premises for use by children. The service is situated in an urban residential area in the town of Birr, County Offaly.
Staffing	The registered provider and one staff employed under the access and inclusion model (AIM) were present and working directly with the children.
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 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. 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 co-operation 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.
- (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:

The registered provider stated that one staff member commenced employment in the service since the last inspection on the 26th June 2018.

(2) (a)

Two written validated references from past employers were available in respect of the employee.

(b)

Written validated references from sources other than past employers were not required as references from past employers were available.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the new employee.

(d)

Not applicable, the employee had not lived outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(7)(a)

Systems in place were reviewed and indicated that employees have been provided with the relevant information required, including training in relation to the specific updated policies and procedures of the service. Evidence reviewed demonstrated that staff had completed infection control and return to work training sessions prior to the service reopening.

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:

The registered provider ensured that the required written policies procedures and statements specified in schedule 5 were in place in the service.

The following policies and procedures were reviewed;

1. Infection control policy revised in line with Health Protection Surveillance Centre guidance including the following;
 - Cleaning schedules.
 - Protocol in relation to mouthed toys.
 - Procedure for hand washing.
 - Procedure for cleaning and infection control.
2. Risk Management policy updated with COVID 19 information.
3. Incident plans updated with COVID 19 information.
4. Procedure for drop off and collection of children attending the service.
5. Completed TUSLA self-assessment checklist.

Evidence reviewed demonstrated each staff member had signed the revised policy and procedure documents.

All parents and guardians received information outlining the actions taken by the service in relation to the room pod, two metre distance requirements and sanitising stations. Additional information included updated policies and procedures and COVID 19 related updates.

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)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.
- (3)
There were 5 children attending the service being supervised directly by 2 adults in 1 play pod at the time of inspection.
- (8)(c)
Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

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:

The adults were observed to be warm and kind towards the children in their care evidenced by soft language tones and use of children's individual names during activities. The staff present supported children at play in both individual and group activities showing them how to share and take turns. The children were encouraged to be independent and their choices were supported by the staff present. Staff were observed to offer support and praise to each child for their involvement in activities. The service operated in partnership with parents and guardians. Staff supervised the drop off and collection of children. Parents were observed receiving a verbal handover on the child's day at the end of the morning session. Any additional information and updates relating to the service and its activities is communicated to parents by group text or via a private social media account.

PHYSICAL & MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Low level tables and chairs and low level shelving with equipment and materials were accessible to the children. A range of developmentally appropriate play materials were available to the children through areas of interest that incorporated real life play items and materials to stimulate each area of the child's development. All children were observed in the outdoor play area using the various bikes and trikes available.

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 entry to the service was secure to ensure the safety of the children within. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents and hand sanitiser.

INFECTION CONTROL:

All toys and materials were easily cleanable and cleaning schedules were available and reviewed. A clean down of stationery equipment and a rotation of play materials was observed at the end of the morning session in preparation for the afternoon session. A one way system of entry was used for drop off and collection.

Systems were in place in the service to hold the necessary information of children and staff in play pods for contact tracing if required by the public health department.

There was an infection prevention and control policy available to inform practice that included detailed cleaning schedules, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and practices for isolation of a child or adult in the event of either displaying symptoms of COVID 19.

Paper hand towels and liquid soap was available in the sanitary accommodation. The water temperature at the wash hand basin was recorded at 35° Celsius. Hand sanitiser was available in wall mounted units at the entrance point to the service and at locations throughout the premises. Hand hygiene was facilitated after self-toileting and before snack time.

A well-ventilated area was identified for the isolation of any child or adult feeling unwell. A box containing personal protective equipment including face masks, gloves and additional supplies was available.

The pre-school rooms and sanitary accommodation were ventilated by means of openable windows.

Foot operated pedal bins were noted in the service for the hygienic disposal of waste.