

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO012					
Name of Service:	Fantasia Montessori Preschool					
Address of Service:	34 St Anne's Terrace, Sligo, F91 T85C.					
Email Address:	annmarieherrity@gmail.com					
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Annmarie Herrity					
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒			
Date of Inspection:	0	7	0	2	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	11	PM	-		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Office, Child and Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84					
Inspection undertaken by:	S Mc Kenna					
Title:	Early Years Inspector					

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
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Description of Service	Fantasia Montessori is a private operated preschool service. It provides a morning session from 9:30 to 12:30pm for children aged 2 to 6 years. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 13 children.
Premises	The premises are situated in a separate purpose-built premises to the rear of the registered providers residence within close proximity of Sligo town. There is one playroom with a kitchenette, sanitary accommodation and an outdoor area to the rear of the premises for the children's use.
Staffing	The registered provider works directly with the preschool children, and one adult is also employed in the service. Both adults hold a major award in Childcare on the National Qualifications Framework.
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

- (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) There was a designated person in charge, and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) On the day of inspection and upon review of the weekly staff roster the registered provider ensured that while the pre-school service was in operation the designated person in charge was on the premises.
- (2) and (4)
- No new staff members have commenced employment within the preschool service since the last inspection (06/02/2019). The files for the registered provider and the one staff member were found to meet the regulatory requirement on the previous inspection and therefore were not reviewed at this inspection.

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)

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service on the day of the inspection. The registered provider and one adult employed in the service were working directly with the children.

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times throughout the inspection. There were eleven pre-school children attending the service being supervised by two adults. Children in attendance on the day were aged between 3 years 5 months up to 4 years 9 months.

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:

BASIC NEEDS:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service. Children bring in their own lunches and drinks from home which consisted of yogurts, fruit, and sandwiches. Snack time was relaxed and unrushed, adults sat with children and assisted where required.
- Children were encouraged to use the toilet independently with support provided by adults if needed.
- There was a self-care area accessible to the children within the preschool room. Tissues, wipes, a mirror, hairbrushes and a pedal operated bin were in this area.
- Aprons, spare clothes and appropriate outdoor clothing were available to each child attending the preschool.
- An area of rest was provided within the preschool room should a child wish to rest, the area had a soft child sized sofa and cushions.
- The adults were observed to handle any small disagreements among children with ease and compassion, they discussed any issues about turn taking or sharing that arose with the children and together found positive solutions.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

- The children received support throughout the preschool session adequate to the child's requests or needs. Where help was required, adults promptly provided for this, while also encouraging the child's own independence, allowing children to gain a sense of achievement such as when they accomplished building a complex jigsaw.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- Children had freedom of choice to explore resources or materials of their choice. Children were observed to build brick towers, make up and play with play dough and build jigsaws. A hairdresser role play area was set up in the preschool room which was observed to be a popular choice on the day of inspection.
- The materials and resources available in the preschool service were easily accessible, age and stage appropriate and adequately catered for the numbers of children in attendance.
- The children were observed to be familiar with the preschool routine. The registered provider informed the inspector that some days the routine changes slightly depending on the child's needs on a particular day. For example; on the day of inspection one child was a little upset upon arrival and the free play session continued for a longer time, with circle time then scheduled for after snack time.
- Staff spoke to children calmly and positively and demonstrated patience and empathy towards children's needs or requests throughout the preschool session.
- Staff demonstrated strong relationships with the children, which was observed through conversations of the children's own home life.
- Communication with parents is face to face upon arrival and collection and also through a digital messaging service.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The preschool room was warm and inviting with numerous displays decorating the walls to include a family wall, a birthday chart and emotion boards. Children's own artwork was displayed on a display titled "art gallery" with sticking collages and self-portraits also displayed on the walls.
- Children had access to both an indoor preschool room and the outdoor play environment, both areas were well resourced and presented in an easy to access set up, allowing children freedom of choice in their activities.
- The preschool room had clearly defined interest areas some of which were a book area, tabletop areas for a large variety of fine motor activities, a painting area, a soft mat with wooden building blocks, a rest area, a home corner, a hairdresser alongside a great array of Montessori materials displayed on numerous shelving units within the preschool room.
- An outdoor area was available just outside the preschool room, which was covered with clear Perspex roofing, and had a mixture of floor surfaces to include soft matting, artificial grass, and rubber mats. The area had a variety of interest areas such as: small world houses and garages, with home play materials, a mud kitchen with utensils, planting pots, natural materials such as shells and pebbles, a scooter, hula hoops, a basketball hoop, a wipeable bench with cushions, some child size stools and additional boxes of toys such as animals and cars available for play opportunities for children while in the outdoor area.

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 main entrance door to the premises was secure upon the inspector's arrival and remained locked throughout the inspection, ensuring no unauthorised access by others and no child could leave the premises unsupervised.
- The adults supervised the children appropriately at all times during the preschool session.
- Toys and play equipment provided for the children were in good condition and maintained in a clean and hygienic manner.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of the children in the service.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- The children were observed to wash their hands after using the toilet and before snack time.
- Warm running water, soap, paper towels and pedal operated bins were provided in the preschool service.
- Personal protective equipment was available for use should an adult or child become unwell while in the service.
- Cleaning schedules were in place and maintained which was evidenced through a clean and hygienic environment.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:

- The registered provider explained to the inspector that currently no medication has been requested or required to be administered to children during their attendance at the preschool service.

FIRE SAFETY:

- Fire exits were kept clear at all times throughout the inspection.