

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WH013							
Name of Service:	Kinnegad Montessori School and Crèche							
Address of Service:	24 Riverside, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath							
Email Address:	noradardis@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Nora Dardis							
Type of Service Registered:	Full Day Care		☒					
Date of Inspection:	2	5	0	2	2	0	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM		16		PM		6	
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Unit, St. Loman's Campus, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.							
Inspection undertaken by:	C. O' Connor Hughes							
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



Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016
REF: EYIRIFDC02-2017: Version 12: Mar 2021
1.0

1 of 9

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Description of Service	This service operates as a full day care service and provides an Early Childhood Care and Education scheme. The age range of children cared for in the service is 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. A school age childcare facility is available.
Premises	The Early Years' Service is located on the ground floor of an adapted domestic dwelling. Three pre-school areas and a kitchenette are provided on the ground floor. An office area is provided on the first floor. An outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the premises. The service is situated in a residential area on the outskirts of the town of Kinnegad, County Westmeath.
Staffing	There were three adults present on the 25 February 2022 working directly with the children including the registered provider.
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. 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

- (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,
- (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.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who—
- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and
 - (b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date
- (6A is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of "paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)" for "paragraphs (5) and (6)", and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): "
- (6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."
- (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;

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Compliance Information:	(1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. (b) The registered provider was present during the inspection. The registered provider stated that no new staff members had commenced in the service since the last inspection on the 30 September 2020. (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(3)(4) Not applicable as no new staff member had commenced in the service since the last inspection on the 30 September 2020. (6)(a)(b) Not applicable, no adult present had signed a declaration on or before the 30th of June 2016 to the effect that they intended to retire from employment in a pre-school service. (6A) The registered provider was working directly with one child under the Access and Inclusion Model. (7)(a) Evidence reviewed demonstrated that staff received induction training in infection control and return to work procedures prior to the service reopening.
-------------------------	--

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
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times

Compliance Information:

(1)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the inspection.

(2)
There were sixteen children attending the service being supervised by three adults in three play pods including the registered provider.

Play Pods Structure

Play pods	Number of staff	Number of Children
Pod 1 Pre-Montessori room	registered provider	5 children aged 3-4 years 4 sessional 1
Pod 2 Montessori room	1 staff	6 children aged 4-5 years 5 sessional 1 fdc
Pod 3 Toddler room	1 staff	5 children aged 2 years 1 sessional 4 full day care

(8)(a)
The roster indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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)

BASIC NEEDS

Parents provided all meals and snacks for children attending the service. Snacks consisted of sandwiches, fruit and yoghurt with water to drink. Staff sat with children during mealtimes encouraging conversations and interactions. Good communication between the staff member and child was observed during nappy changing. Children were dressed appropriately in coats and hats for outdoor play and enjoyed moving from one play experience to the next. Rostered outdoor play was noted in the service for all children to avail of the opportunity for outdoor play.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

There was a calm and happy atmosphere in the service. Staff were observed using the child's name, speaking in a positive tone to the children and praising them for their efforts on the completion of activities. A little helper system was in place for giving out the snacks to each child. A key person system was in place in each pre-school room. Staff were familiar with the children, their personalities and their daily routine. Additional support and assistance was given to a child as required during the inspection.

The service worked in partnership with parents, a verbal handover to parents was observed. Information and updates for parents are shared via email from the registered provider. Staff stated the Christmas concert was shared with parents on a short messaging system (SMS).

PHYSICAL & MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

Three pre-school rooms were in use, the toddler room, pre-Montessori room and Montessori room. Toys and equipment included dress up, a kitchen, Montessori materials, paint, books, dolls, puzzles, blocks, trucks, animals and fine motor skill toys including pegboards, jigsaws and shape sorters. Children's artwork was displayed in the pre-school rooms.

The outdoor area was safe and secure and equipped with a climbing frame with slide, a kitchen, a wooden tepee tent, a water funnel, two playhouses and cars for children to ride on. A shed was available for the storage of toys and equipment.

A new sheltered outdoor play area was put in place since the last inspection on the 30 September 2020.

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:

There was an infection and control policy in place to inform practice. Implementation of the Covid 19 procedures outlined in the policy were noted during the inspection.

The premises were visually clean. All toys and materials were easily cleanable and cleaning schedules were available and reviewed.

Adequate supplies of hot water, hand paper towels and liquid soap was available in the sanitary accommodation. The temperature of the water was recorded at 30.1°C at the wash hand basins. Hand sanitiser was available at the entrance to the service and in the pre-school rooms.

Children were observed to wash their hands before snacks, after toileting, after nappy changing and after outdoor play.

Children's snacks were stored in the fridge at the correct temperature.

Attendance records for children and staff were maintained for contact tracing if required by the public health department.

Staff wore face masks/coverings during the inspection.

The pre-school rooms and the sanitary accommodation were ventilated through openable windows.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:

No medicine was administered at the time of the inspection. A temperature reducing medication was available in the service if a child presented with a high temperature.

SAFE SLEEP:

The toddler room was used for children to sleep and relax. One cot and three low level beds were in place for children. The temperature of the toddler sleep room was recorded at 18.3°C. A sleep log was maintained noting the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	FIRE SAFETY: Emergency exits were unobstructed. A designated fire assembly point was located in the outdoor play area.
Non-Compliance Information:	INFECTION CONTROL: The nappy changing practices observed were inadequate for infection control purposes due to the following; • The staff member did not wear a single use apron while carrying out nappy changing. • The staff member did not remove their gloves prior to the redress of the child.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	The registered provider stated the following corrective and preventive actions in her response; CORRECTIVE ACTION Staff member refreshed their memory of the correct safety procedure for nappy changing. Nappy changing procedure displayed in a prominent place in the nappy changing area. Staff member was observed changing nappies and the staff member followed the correct procedure. PREVENTIVE ACTION Advise staff to refresh their memory regularly. Continue to do spot checks.
Summary Comment:	The practice stated by the registered provider has met the regulatory requirement. This practice will be assessed on the next TUSLA inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First Aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information:	(2)(a) A first box was available in an accessible and conspicuous location in the service. (b) A first aid box was accessible to children in the pre-school service.
-------------------------	---

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First Aid

Non-Compliance Information:	(1) A person qualified in First Aid response (FAR) was not available on the premises. It is acknowledged that the registered provider stated that FAR training for two adults was planned for the April 2022.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	The registered provider stated the following corrective and preventive actions in her response; CORRECTIVE ACTION Far First Aid training booked with company. One member of booked for 31 st March, 1 st and 4 th April 2022. Three staff members booked in on May 7 th , 14 th and 21 st May 2022. PREVENTIVE ACTION Set reminder on service tablets. Check staff file regularly.
Summary Comment:	The registered provider will submit the evidence to the Early Years Inspector of the completed FAR training when she receives certification. The Regulatory requirement will be met when the evidence is submitted by the registered provider. This corrective action will be assessed on the next TUSLA inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
 (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises
 (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises

Compliance Information:	(1)(a) A written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on the 23 February 2022. (b) A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were serviced on the 19 September 2021. (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the entrance of the service.
-------------------------	--