

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WH013
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Name of Service:	Kinnegad Montessori School and Crèche
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Address of Service:	24 Riverside, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath
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Email Address:	noradardis@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms. Nora Dardis
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Type of service registered:	Full Day Care	☒
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Date(s) of Inspection:	3	0	0	9	2	0	2	0
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	22	PM	6
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Unit, St. Lomans Campus, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.
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Inspection undertaken by :	Ms. C O' Connor Hughes
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health, Welfare and Development	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	This service operates as a full day care service and provides an Early Childhood Care and Education scheme. A school age childcare facility is available. The age range of pre-school 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.
Staffing	There were five adults present on the 30.09.2020. All adults were 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 announced and focused on the 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.
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.
- (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) (a)
Written validated references from past employers were available in respect of new staff members.
- (b)
Written validated references were available from sources other than previous employers in respect of new staff members.
- (c)
Completed vetting disclosure were available in respect of a new staff members.
- (d)
Not applicable as the staff member 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.
The registered provider was the named infection control officer and a staff member had completed a Health & Safety Authority lead worker representative online course on the 08.09.20. Staff had completed training on return to work safety induction online on the 25.08.20.

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 updated with Health Protection Surveillance Centre guidance including the following; • Cleaning schedules. • Protocol in relation to mouthed toys • Infection control measures where cots are shared • Procedure for Hand washing. • Procedure for cleaning and infection control. 2. Risk Management policy updated with COVID 19 information and a COVID 19 Incident Plan. 3. Completed TUSLA self assessment checklist. 4. Procedure for drop off and collection of children attending the service. Evidence reviewed demonstrated that each staff member had signed the policy and procedure documents. A parent and child document pack with COVID 19 information and policies and procedures of the service were emailed to all parents / guardians of children attending the service.
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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)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.
- (2)
There were 22 children attending the service being supervised directly by 5 adults including the registered provider at the time of inspection.

Play Pods Structure

Play pods	Number of staff	Number of Children
Pod 1 Pre-Montessori room	1 staff	8 children aged 3 + years 6 sessional 2 full day care
Pod 2 Montessori room	1 staff and the registered provider	10 children aged 4-5 years 8 sessional 2 part time
Pod 3 Toddler room	2 staff	4 children Aged 1-2.5yrs 2 sessional 2 full day care

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

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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:

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

A key person system is used in the service to help promote children's' emotional security. Staff were observed using the child's name, making eye contact and speaking in a positive tone to the children. Staff were familiar with the children in their care, their personalities and their daily routine. Staff sat with children as they enjoyed their healthy snacks provided by their parents. Younger children were supported by caring staff in the settling process.

The service worked in partnership with parents and had changed their communication methods with parents that included use of social media with parental agreement for updating parents on children's activities and progress in the service, verbal handover on collection and information updates electronically.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

Children were observed happily engaged at various activities in their play pods in the pre-school rooms. Low level tables and chairs were in place with materials accessible to the children. Areas of interest included a kitchen, a construction area, arts and crafts, chalk board and a rest area with books. Materials available to children included Montessori equipment, paint, books, dolls, puzzles, blocks, trucks, animals and fine motor skill toys including pegboards, jigsaws and shape sorters. Children's colourful art work was displayed in the pre-school rooms

The outdoor area included a climbing frame with slides and swings, a large wooden boat, a playhouse, kitchen, two slides and trikes/bicycles for children to ride on. A recent addition to the outdoor play area included a fairy garden and large tent for sand and water play.

Rostered outdoor play was observed for children in the three play pods and children were observed playing outdoors supervised by staff.

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. A perspex stand is in place at the front entrance. This enables a staff member to communicate with the parent and the child enters the service through a child sized opening in the stand. 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:

The premises were visually clean. Cleaning schedules were maintained for each pre-school room.

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.

Physical distancing measures were evident at the front door and in the corridor leading to the pre-school rooms. Staff members take their breaks separately and this was noted in the staff roster.

Adequate supplies of hot water, hand paper towels and soap was available in the sanitary accommodation. The water temperature was recorded at 42.3 degrees celsius. Hand sanitiser, in wall mounted units was available in the front entrance and in the pre-school rooms.

A sink had been recently installed in the outdoor play area with hot and cold water. The children were observed to use separate hand washing facilities for each play pod. Children were observed to wash their hands before lunch, after toileting and after outdoor play.

The staff member carried out the nappy changing procedure correctly.

Personal protective equipment that included hand sanitisers, aprons and gloves were available in pre-school rooms. Face masks were available for use if required and a room was identified for isolation of a child or person feeling unwell.

The service had systems in place to restrict the movement of staff.

Staff were observed to remain in their allocated play pod with the children assigned to the pod.

Part VI - Safety

All toys and materials were easily cleanable and cleaning schedules were available and reviewed. A cleaning schedule was available for mouthing toys in the pre-school rooms. Soothers were stored correctly in individual containers in the fridge.

The pre-school rooms and sanitary accommodation were well ventilated with windows fully open.

Foot operated pedal bins were noted in all pre-school rooms for personal and other waste products. A self-closing sealed unit for nappies and foot pedal bin was noted in the sanitary accommodation.

Linen is not shared between children and was stored correctly in individually named separate linen bags in the service. One cot was in use in the service and a cleaning checklist was available for review. Children and staff have a change of clothes in the service if required.

SAFE SLEEP:

A sleep log was maintained noting the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children. The temperature of the room was noted on the sleep log.