

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015WW108

Name of Service: Deepdales Montessori

Address of Service: 109 Deepdales,
Southern Cross Road,
Bray,
Co. Wicklow.
A98 C8X8

Email Address: deepdalesmontessori@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Abigail Rooney

Type of Service Registered: **Part time** ☒

Date of Inspection: 1 1 0 6 2 0 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: **AM** 20 **PM** 20

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: First Floor Trinity Building,
IDA Business Park,
Southern Cross Road,
Bray,
Co. Wicklow.

Inspection undertaken by: H. Bourke
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.

Description of Service	This pre-school service was first established in 2007. It is registered to provide care and education for children aged between 2 years and 6 years of age. The service is registered as a part time facility that participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and operate a sessional service for 38 weeks of the year Monday to Friday. The service operates from 08.15am to 01.00pm There were 20 children present on the day of inspection.
Premises	The service operates from an adapted building attached to the rear of a domestic dwelling in a housing estate on the outskirts of Bray Co. Wicklow. There is a second small purpose built building to the rear of the property. There is a large open area to the front of the premises, that the pre-school uses for outdoor play on a daily basis.
Staffing	There were 4 adults present in the service when the inspector arrived. The 4 staff members were working directly with the children, this included the registered provider who was present on the day of inspection. The registered provider was engaged in facilitating the inspection during this time.
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. This inspection was unannounced and carried out when the country was under restrictions of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The inspection 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.

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Acknowledgements

The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, 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—
- (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:

- (2)(c)
The required Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of 4 adults.
- (d)
Police vetting was not required as no adult had not lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months since turning eighteen years of age.
- (4)
All members of staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework for Qualifications.

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)
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)
The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were 4 adults employed and present with 20 pre-school children on the day of inspection.
- (8)
(a) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 adults on the premises at all times.

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:

- The indoor environment was comfortable, pleasant and safely laid out to accommodate the needs of the pre-school children and the adults in the service.
- Children were given opportunities to make choices as to which activities they wished to pursue and were supported in their choice by the staff present.
- Children were given plenty of time to eat their food in a relaxed and unhurried environment.
- There was water available for children to drink throughout the morning.
- The transition between activities was smooth and calm, this included a "wind down" after free play, so children were relaxed and rested before having their snack.
- There were suitable rest areas available for the pre-school children in both the pre-school rooms, should a child require it during the morning.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The pre-school rooms had a low-level tables and chairs suitable for the children attending the service.
- All equipment and materials were stored on low-level shelving and were accessible to the pre-school children.
- Materials including paper, colouring pencils and paints were available to the children; other equipment that promoted the development of fine motor skills such as jigsaws and puzzles were also accessible to pre-school children.
- There was a well-equipped safe and secure outdoor area to the rear of the premises, which contained a slide, toy kitchen, construction toys, dolls and prams for imaginary play. The service also avails of the large communal green area located to the front the house, where pre-school children are brought to on a daily basis.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The adults sat at the children's level, addressed them by name when communicating with them.
- The adults demonstrated warmth towards the children, using calm voices, positive language and children's choices were respected at all times during the inspection.
- Children's parents were spoken to directly at the end of the day to discuss how their child was during the day and any issues that might have arisen. In

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

addition, the service used a secure online web group to keep in contact with parents.

- Children were supported and encouraged to be independent with toileting but were supervised appropriately. Hand washing following toileting was observed and children were encouraged to wash their hands following the visual aids put up in the sanitary area.
- A strong ethos of teamwork was evident in the service, this was observed by how staff members interacted with each other and the children throughout the inspection.
- Staff supported the pre-school children to find positive solutions to problems and handled minor problems before they escalated.

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:

INFECTION CONTROL:

- The registered provider had updated and extended the infection control policies and procedures in line with the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines. The policies and procedures were extensive and included procedures for dropping off and collecting children, guidance on not attending if symptomatic and what to do in the event of a child or adult developing symptoms while attending the service.
- The pre-school had a sanitary area with toilets and sinks. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels available. A foot pedal bin was available in the sanitary area for the safe disposal of used paper towels.
- Table cleaning was observed before and after snack time.
- Hand washing by adults and children was observed before snacks and after using the toilet.
- A cleaning schedule was present and maintained in the pre-school rooms.
- Hand sanitiser gel was available in the pre-school rooms and in prominent locations, inside and outside the service.
- Personal protective equipment such as disposable aprons, gloves and face masks were available and used by the adults in the service when required.
- An isolation space was available if needed.