

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW108
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Name of Service:	Deepdales Montessori
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Address of Service:	109 Deepdales, Southern Cross, Bray, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A98 C8X8
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Name of Registered Provider:	Abigail Rooney
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	20/06/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, First Floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Bourke
Title:	Early Years Inspector

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

Deepdales Montessori was first established in 2007. It is registered to provide care and education for children aged between two years and six years of age. The service is registered as a part time facility that participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and runs a sessional service for 38 weeks of the year Monday to Friday from 10 am to 01.00 pm. The part-time service hours are from 08.15am to 01.00pm. The Montessori operates from an adapted extension and a second small building to the rear of a domestic dwelling. The property is located in a housing estate in Bray Co. Wicklow.

Staffing

There were three adults present in the service when the inspector arrived. The three staff members were working directly with the children, this included the registered provider.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years 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. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

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 the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings.

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Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re-occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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)

The registered provider was in charge of the service and there was a named staff member who was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The registered provider was on the premises at the time of arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(2)(a)

Written references were available from past employers with respect of three staff members.

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(b)

Not applicable as all references were from past employers.

(c)

The required Garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of three staff members and the outside contractor.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no adult had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months since turning 18 years of age.

(4)

Three members of staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 or higher on the National Framework of 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)

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The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were three adults present with nineteen children on the day of Inspection.

(8)(a)

There were more than two adults present on the premises throughout the inspection and the staff roster confirmed there were at least two adults present at all times.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(g)(h)(i)(j)and(k)

The registered provider had records, in writing, available for the above named list in relation to the service.

(3)

The above listed records were available for inspection to an authorised person.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(c)

The registered provider had a copy of the Act available for inspection by an authorised person.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The registered provider ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place. Children were asked what activity they wished to pursue, and children's participation was encouraged in all activities throughout the morning. The registered provider employs an outside entertainer for the children once a week and children were seen to be fully enjoying and participating in the exercise program provided through music and dance.

The transition between activities was smooth and calm, this included a "wind down" after the children's exercise activity, so children were relaxed and rested before having their snack. This was aided by the language used by the adults to the children.

Positive reinforcement of children's behaviour contributed to a pleasant environment for the children in the service. Both the indoor and outdoor area were laid out to provide a range of developmentally appropriate, challenging, diverse, creative and enriching experiences for all the children attending the service.

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 children to find positive solutions to problems and handled minor problems before they escalated.

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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:

- On arrival to the service the entrance door to the service was appropriately secured to prevent any children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- The cleaning agents were stored within a designated area out of the reach of the children.
- There was a small outdoor area between the large pre-school room and the second small building which was completely enclosed. The children have access to this area throughout their day.
- The outdoor area was suitable, safe and secure.

Infection Control:

- The pre-school had a sanitary area with two toilets and two sinks.
- There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels available.
- A foot pedal bin was available in the sanitary area and in both pre-school buildings, 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 other areas within the service.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider ensured that all children attending the service were checked in and out on the service register. The registered provider uses a recognised online application to record this information.

(3)(a)(i-iv)

The registered provider ensured that no other person other than the agreed list of people had access to the service.

(b)

The registered provider had a record in the form of an online application, of all such persons who accessed the service.

(4)

The registered provider was able to demonstrate that the above record was kept for a period of one year from the dates to which it related.

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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

(1)

The registered provider had trained in FAR first aid and was immediately available to the children.

(2)(a)

The first aid box for children was stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b)

At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school.

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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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)

There was evidence that regular fire drills have taken place in the premises. The most recent fire drill took place on 16th of June 2023.

(b)

There was a maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises dated October 2022 and the 6th of September 2022 respectively.

(2)(c)

These records were open to inspection by an authorised person.

(4)

There was a notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, clearly displayed within the pre-school room.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

There were three adults present in the service and as a result the children had continual supervision throughout the inspection. The pre-school area was laid out in a way that made it easy to supervise the children visually.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a)
The premises appeared to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b)
The premises appeared to be safe and secure and no safety hazards were observed on the day of inspection.
- (c)
The premises was adequately lit with good ventilation and was maintained at a comfortable temperature within appropriated limits.
- (d)
The premises was clean and appeared well maintained and cleaning schedules were in place and signed up to date.
- (e)
The premises had sanitary facilities that were suitable to the needs of the children attending the service.