

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL207
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Market Green Montessori
-------------------------	-------------------------

Address of Service:	25 New Market Green, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	K32 X856
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Fiona Halligan
-------------------------------------	----------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	24/06/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5, The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Market Green Montessori is a sessional early years service which is operated from one pre-school room on the ground floor of the registered provider's family home located on a residential street in Balbriggan in north County Dublin. The service was established by the registered provider in 2009 and is registered to accommodate a maximum of 19 pre-school children aged between 2 and 6 years attending on a sessional basis. Market Green Montessori participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9.30am to 12.30pm each weekday. School aged children are not accommodated in the service. The pre-school children have access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area in the owner's garden to the side of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider and two staff members work in the service daily, each of whom work directly with the pre-school children.

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 inspection 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. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

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.

(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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (2) The staff file of one new staff member employed in the service since the last inspection was reviewed.
- (a) Two validated written references were available from a past employer.
- (b) Not applicable as no references were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for three staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International police vetting was not required as documentary evidence demonstrated that neither staff member had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.
- (4) On review of documentation available the new staff member had evidence to demonstrate that they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above 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.*
- (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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The correct minimum adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection.
- (3) There were 3 adults working directly with 11 children aged between 3 to 5 years of age during the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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)

- Staff were observed working well together in providing care, assistance and support to the children as required. The staff members were familiar with the children and their individual personalities, preferences and abilities and responded to their needs in a timely manner.
- The care room was a bright and inviting space with children's artwork, pictures of extended family and birthdays on display.
- The children appeared confident and comfortable in their environment and accessed play materials and their water bottles independently.
- Snack and lunch time was a sociable and relaxed experience for the children with staff sitting with them and engaging in conversation and discussion. Children were given time to enjoy their food and take their time eating and drinking.
- A daily picture schedule was available for the children to familiarise themselves with the routine of the service. Staff were consistent in their approach with the children and provided a flexible outdoor play time to facilitate the children that chose to stay in the care room and play. This created an opportunity for small group work and individual adult child interactions.
- Strategies such as indicating what will happen next, planning and familiarity with routines enabled organised and timely transitions.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 to the service and care room was closely monitored by staff who granted access by a locked door and latch.
- The premises and outdoor play area was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- The care room was observed to be suitable and safe with all cleaning agents and sharp implements out of reach.
- Low level windows in the care room were secured.
- The water temperature in the sanitary accommodation in the service did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding the children in attendance.

Infection Control:

- Adequate hand-washing facilities were available in the sanitary facilities used by the children, these included thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, paper towels and a pedal operated bin. Children were supported to clean their hands before eating, after using the toilet and in the outdoor area.
- A refrigerator was available in the service to refrigerate perishable food items from home.
- The service was observed to be clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules in operation within the care room and sanitary facility. The care room and sanitary facility had open windows to extract any stale air.
- The outdoor sand pit was fitted with a secure cover to prevent contamination by animals and birds when not in use.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff were familiar with the service medication administration policy and the records that were required to be maintained when medication was given to a child while in the service. No child received medication during the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Fire Safety:

- Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were completed in the service.
- The designated fire exit was illuminated and clear of any obstructions throughout the inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider had insurance cover in place for 19 children attending the service on a sessional basis. The policy showed that the service was insured until 27/03/2027.

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) During the inspection it was observed that the walls, flooring, doors, and windows were suitably maintained.

(b) The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.

(c) The care room had windows which provided natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights are fitted with shatter proof coverings.

The temperature of the care room was recorded as between 21.5°C and 21.9°C on the day of inspection.

The sanitary facilities were fitted with a mechanical ventilation system to extract stale air.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(d) The care room was in a clean condition. A cleaning schedule was available in the care room and sanitary facility to ensure regular cleaning of the service.

(e) Warm water, liquid soap, paper hand towels and pedal bins were provided in the sanitary facility.

The children's sanitary accommodation had 2 toilets located side by side with a partition in place to give privacy to the pre-school children when using the toilet.