

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018FL507
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Cherry Blossom Montessori - Castleknock
-------------------------	---

Address of Service:	89 Pecks Lane, Castleknock, Dublin 15.
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	D15 VXA5
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Fiona Bowe
-------------------------------------	------------

Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

Date of Inspection:	17/07/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	11
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

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:	C. Harte
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

Cherry Blossom Montessori Castleknock is a sessional and part-time service catering to children aged between 2 to 6 years old located in a residential area of Dublin. Cherry Blossom Montessori Castleknock offers two part-time sessions from 8.45-13.45 and 9.00-14.00. The service participates the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The premises includes two indoor classrooms, an outdoor classroom and a fully enclosed garden at the rear of the building. The premises also includes sanitary facilities, an office and a small kitchen space. The service also offers a registered school age service.

Staffing

The registered provider currently employs seven staff to work directly with the preschool children attending the service. The registered provider also works directly in the service. Across the day of inspection there was a total of four adults present including one employee working with school aged 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 and safety. 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

(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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that;
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) Documentary evidence showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service the day of inspection.
 - (c) There was evidence of a clear management structure in place. Staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) A review of paperwork and discussion with management showed that four new staff have been employed since the last inspection. The full files of all new staff were reviewed. A review of records maintained by Tusla demonstrated that two existing employees had garda vetting disclosures which had expired, updated vetting disclosures were also requested for review as part of the inspection process. The registered provider had completed the following checks:
- (a) (b) Eight written and validated references were available from past employers.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all new staff and updated disclosures obtained for two existing staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for two adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that three adults who worked directly with the preschool children held 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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (3) The registered provider did not ensure that the checks required under (2) were completed in advance of the start date of two staff members. Full documented checks must be completed and available in staff files prior to a person commencing in order to establish they are appropriate to have access to children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(3) Cherry Blossom Montessori - Castleknock ensures that all employee files will be reviewed & maintained in line with Tusla regulations.

Supporting documentation submitted

None.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed action submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 has been addressed.

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 registered provider ensured there was adequate staff available to the children at all times during the day for example two adults were working directly with 11 preschool children on the morning of inspection and three adults were working directly with 11 preschool children on the afternoon of inspection.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children.

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) The following practices were observed in place to support the children attending:

- Staff were observed to be kind, respectful and caring in their interactions with the children, which helped create a calm atmosphere within the service.
- The inspection was conducted on a warm day. Sheltered areas in the garden provided opportunity for children to play in shaded spaces. Water play was also readily available for a cooling activity. All children had access to the outdoor play area.
- Children were supported to remove heavy layers to support their comfort in the heat. Staff advised that sunscreen was stored on the premises.
- Staff were observed providing children with clear guidance in an age-appropriate manner for interactions with their peers. A staff member promptly supported children with conflict resolution during play.
- As a rolling snack approach was in place children were able to eat at a time that suited them. Snack time was relaxed. Children were observed chatting with their peers and had ample time to enjoy their food. Drinks were readily available throughout the day.
- Management advised how an open-door policy was in place for parents supporting communication regarding the care of the children. In addition to verbal discussions during drop off and collection times updates are shared through a parent's message group. Parents are also encouraged to visit the service for various occasions including days to share information on their community and professions.

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 service entrance was secure when the inspector arrived at the premises unannounced. A video doorbell was in place, and staff attended the door to allow access. This helped prevent unauthorised persons accessing the premises or children exiting unsupervised.
- The inspector was asked to sign a visitor log on the premises.
- A daily risk assessment for the outdoor area was displayed and completed up to date.
- Blind cords were safely secured.
- Toys and resources for play were observed in good condition and suitable for use.

Infection Control:

- Children's morning snack brought from home with perishable items was appropriately refrigerated.
- Children were gently reminded to wash their hands prior to mealtime.

Administration of Medication:

- A staff member discussed in detail the service approach to medication administration and storage on the premises. There was no emergency medication stored on the premises for early years children the day of inspection.

Fire Safety:

- The fire evacuation procedure was displayed, and fire exits were observed clear of obstruction.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- Two shelving units on the premises accessible to children were unstable and posed a potential safety risk. The following was observed:
 - In the green room a shelving unit for storage of plates and cutlery was unstable and rocked when touched.
 - In the pink room a tall unit used for storage was not secured to the wall. It is acknowledged that following the inspection communication was received of the large shelf anchored to the wall.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Fire Safety:

- Attendance records were not maintained in a timely manner and posed a potential risk of hindering safe evacuation in the event of an emergency. A mechanism was in place to record attendance however on the morning of inspection no children were signed in on the roll book. It is acknowledged when brought to the attention of staff this was addressed on inspection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- Both shelving units have been removed since inspection and replaced with sensory areas.

Fire Safety:

- This was addressed on inspection. A record will be maintained.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Fire Safety:

None.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed.

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.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (1) A review of available documentation demonstrated that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available to the children attending the service during the operational hours the week of the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that:
 - (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available on the premises.
 - (b) The first aid box was easily accessible and readily available.