

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2024LK007

Name of Service Caherconlish Montessori

Address of Service: Millenium Centre, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick, V94 CC60

Email Address: helenmoriordan@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Helen O Riordan

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	ü	Sessional	ü
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	Service Type to Sessional and Parttime, Age profile from 3-6 years to 2-6 years, Hours of operation from 09.00-12.00 to 08.30 to 13.30. Change number of children from 22 to 28
Proposed Number of Children:	28 preschool children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Approve all changes
Registered change:	Addition of a Service Type from Sessional to Part Time / Sessional Change in hours of operation from 09:00 – 12:00 to 08:30 – 13:30 Change in number of children from 22 to 28 Change in age profile from 3 – 6 years to 2 – 6 years

Date of Inspection: 1 7 0 8 2 0 2 6

Inspection undertaken by: M Riordan

Title: EYI

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time / Sessional Service for 28 Children
Date of Registration	21 st August 2026

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	Caherconlish Montessori operates as a sessional preschool service, located in the village of Caherconlish not far from Limerick city. The service is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 midday and is open for 38 weeks of the year. The service can accommodate a maximum of 22 preschool children at any one time.
Premises	The facility operates from a large well-resourced preschool room within the local community center. An outdoor play area used solely by the preschool children is available to the side of the premises. Children also have access to a community playground located on the site. Suitable sanitary accommodation is located close to the preschool room.
Staffing	The registered provider is the owner of the service. A designated person in charge is appointed to manage the service on a daily basis. Two additional staff members are also available to work at the service. All adults have completed their studies and hold the relevant qualification in Early childhood care and education.
Methodology	The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises. The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including: clarity; completeness; and, compliance with

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	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 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.

Requirement met:	(1)(a) The requirement has been met. A named person in charge has been assigned to the service, with a person available to deputise if required.
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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.

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1) The service proposes that the required adult: child ratios will be adhered to with a maximum of 28 children aged 2 to 6 years to attend the service with 4 qualified staff.
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

- (1) *Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—*
- (a) *having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*
 - (b) *there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*
- (2) *A registered provider—*
- (b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—*
- (a) *a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or*
 - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The preschool room has been furnished and laid out with consideration given to the developmental needs and the age range of the children proposed to attend the service. There is a sufficient quantity of child sized tables and chairs available, and a wide variety of play resources are accessible at child height.

Play resources including puzzles, construction sets, instruments and books are positioned on low level open shelves for easy child access. Well-resourced areas of interest have been developed to include home corners, imaginative play spaces, dress up areas, sensorial play areas and quiet reading areas with soft seating and matting. Onsite outdoor areas were provided to ensure all children can access outdoor play on a daily basis.

(b)

Rest areas with soft furnishings are provided in the library corner of the room. This facilitates a quiet space for children who need time away from active play when tired. Low level sleep mats are available if children require a nap during the day.

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(2)(a)

Outdoor play will be facilitated in a designated area adjacent to the community hall. The area is cordoned off using barriers when in use making it a secure space. A community playground also available on site. This area is well secured with railings and gates enclosing the space.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

Parents will provide a morning snack. All perishable foods will be safely stored in a refrigerator in the preschool room. A second snack will be provided for children attending the part-time services.

Drinking water will be available for children at all times.

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- The door to the service is safely secured in order to prevent unauthorised individuals from entering the building unnoticed.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- All windows were fitted with restricted opening devices. All blinds cords were safely secured on a tension hooks.
- Suitable storage is available for the children's belongings.
- A fridge is available for the storage of perishable food.
- All sanitary accommodations are well stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap

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and paper hand towels. Thermostatically controlled hot water is available at all wash hand basins. Pedal operated, lidded bins are available in all sanitary areas and care rooms for the safe disposal of used paper towels and other waste.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The registered provider will ensure that a person with first aid responder training will at all times be available on site during the operational hours of the preschool. Currently 2 of the proposed 4 staff have first responder training completed.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box is available in the service.

(b)

The first aid box is at all times clearly identifiable and readily accessible.

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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 fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Fire drills will continue to be carried out on a monthly basis.

(b)

Firefighting equipment and smoke alarms are available on the premises with contracts in place for the regular service and maintenance of the fire safety equipment and smoke alarms.

(4)

Notices were displayed in conspicuous places in the premises of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

Evidence of an insurance policy for pre-school children to attend the service on a sessional basis was available.

The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

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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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(a)

The proposed service is located in a well-equipped preschool room on the first floor of the local community centre. The premises appears of sound and stable structure.

(b)

The point of entry to the service is secured through the main door with a secure lock system in place.

The outdoor area is enclosed with a mix of high barriers, railings with access gates in the playground secured to prevent a child leaving unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.

(c)

The premises benefits from natural light via large windows in the room. There is supplemental artificial lighting provided from covered ceiling lights in all areas.

Air conditioning units maintain favourable room temperatures, and operable windows guarantee fresh air circulation

(d)

On the day of the inspection the premises and surrounding environment were clean and well maintained.

(e)

The service is equipped with an adequate number of sanitary facilities, suitable for adult and children's use. The sanitary accommodation is accessed on the first floor and on the ground floor of the building. A nappy changing unit is available on the ground floor if required.

Sanitary accommodation for adults is also provided.

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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
 - (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the service.

(2)

The required clear floor space is available with 51 square meters provided. This provides adequate for the proposed maximum of 28 preschool children.

(3)

The service proposes to have a maximum of 28 preschool children attending at any one time