

The Lodge Montessori
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South Dublin County Council
Planning Department
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24

22nd October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

At present, I operate a daily Morning preschool session from 9am to 12 noon, Monday to Friday (September to June, 38 weeks) under approved planning ref. SD12A/0094. The morning sessions caters for up to 14 children who qualify for fifteen free preschool hours a week (3 hours daily), under the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE). It operates presently with a ratio of 14 children to 2 staff. To remain sustainable and to meet the demand for ECCE places, I wish to increase the enrolment in the Morning class to 16 children.

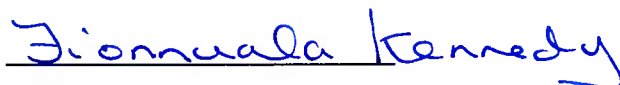
I also operate a daily Afternoon preschool session from 1pm – 4pm, Monday to Friday (September to June, 38 weeks) under approved planning ref. SD19A/0066. This afternoon sessions caters for up to 11 children who qualify for fifteen free preschool hours a week (3 hours daily), under the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE). It operates presently with a ratio of 11 children to 2 staff. Again, to remain sustainable and to meet the demand for ECCE places, I wish to increase the enrolment in the Afternoon class to 16 children.

To provide some background; I opened The Lodge Montessori in September 1997, just recently celebrating its 24th anniversary. In 2013, the class was refurbished and extended to facilitate four new play-based areas and adapted to provide a 2nd bathroom with disabled access and access throughout the interior and exterior areas. In 2017, a Government Grant enabled the creation of a natural all-weather outside play area consisting of a sensory planting area, fairy garden, play house and sand/water play.

I have very long waiting lists as the demand for the ECCE scheme has further increased since the introduction of a 2nd free preschool year. Demand has also risen due to the many new local housing developments that are within walking distance of my preschool. Furthermore, a good reputation has been established, with many referrals coming from past parents.

I personally enjoy the profession immensely and have a commitment to continual professional development, graduating in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Care and Education. Then graduating in 2019 under the Leadership for Inclusion programme to become an Inclusion Co-ordinator within my service. My service is committed to providing an environment that ensures meaningful early learning experiences for all enrolled children.

Yours sincerely,



Fionnuala Kennedy (Applicant)

Owner/Manager

Encl.