

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015CC070

Name of Service Bright Sparks Childcare Centre

Address of Service: Brigown, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork P67 V678

Email Address: brightsparkschildcare@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms. Claire Devaney

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in the maximum number of children to 91. Change in the age profile of children to 1 to 6 years
Proposed Number of Children:	91
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	From the 1 st July 2024 approval to accommodate a maximum of 91 children aged from 1 to 6 years.
Registered change:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in the maximum number of children accommodated in the service at any one time from 85 to 91. Change in the age profile from children aged 0 to 6 years to 1 to 6 years

Date of Inspection: 0 8 0 4 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: M. O' Reilly
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher, Cork

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 91 Children
Date of Registration	19 th April 2024

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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

Bright Sparks Childcare Centre is a full day care service that currently caters for children aged from 4 months to 6 years and for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). The service is registered to cater for 85 children. The service is privately operated and is in operation since 2004. The school aged care service operates from a separate building located beside the early years service facility.

From the 1st July 2024 the service proposes the following:

- To increase the overall number of children attending the early years facility at any one time from 85 to 91
- To change the age profile from 0 to 6 years to 1 to 6 years.

Premises

The service is based in a purpose-built childcare facility which was built as part of an urban housing estate in the outskirts of Mitchelstown, Co Cork. It is a two-storey detached building with currently 6 playrooms in operation, a separate designated sleep room, a reception area, kitchen, and a secure outdoor area running across the rear and side of the building.

Ground Floor

Bugs and Bunnies Room, a maximum of 12 children, aged between 1 and 2 years.

Butterfly and Caterpillar Room, a maximum of 12 children, aged between 2 and 3 years.

Little Acorn Room, a maximum of 6 children aged between 2 years 6 months and 3 years and 6 months.

Flying Saucers Room, a maximum of 11 children aged between 3 and 4 years.

Shooting Stars Room, a maximum of 22 children aged between 3 and 6 years.

First Floor

Astronauts and Jupiter Room a maximum of 22 children aged between 3 and 6 years.

To accommodate the increase in the number of children attending at any one time. The proposed plan is to convert the current designated sleep room into a playroom. (Little

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	Stars room) This playroom will accommodate a maximum of 6 children aged between 1 and 2 years. There will then be 7 playrooms in operation.
Staffing	It is proposed there will be one to two staff will be employed in the new room (Little Stars) to work directly with the children in the room. The adults who will work directly with the children will have a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.
Methodology	<p>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.</p> <p>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 administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider/ person in charge, 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There is a named person in charge for the service and there is named persons to deputise as required. This information was displayed in the service.

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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 fit for purpose inspection was carried out in the absence of children in the room. It is proposed that there will be two adults employed who will work directly with the 6 children when service is operating to maximum capacity. The registered provider stated that initially she plans on having 5 children in this room aged 1 to 2 years with 1 staff member and a floater staff who will assist as required with the daily care of the children.

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*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) There are low shelves provided in the playroom that are accessible to the children.

There is a selection of age-appropriate activities, equipment and play materials. There

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is an adequate number of age-appropriate tables, low and highchairs in the room suitable for the proposed age group. There is a designated outdoor play area located beside the room.

(b) There were suitable sleep equipment available for children aged between 1 and 2 years who required a sleep while attending the service. There are currently 9 cots with safety mattresses. The laundry of bed linen will take place in the service. The proposed plan is that the playroom next door will be converted into a sleep room after lunch each day. Children will also be facilitated to sleep at other times as needed. From July 2024, the service is proposing that the room beside the Little Stars room will also cater for children aged between 1 and 2 years. This room had a Fit for Purpose Inspection in 2020. This room known as the Bugs and Bunnies Room has space to accommodate 12 children aged between 1 and 2 years.

(2)(a), (3)(a) There is an outdoor play area provided beside the room. The outdoor play area is adequately enclosed and will be secured when the children are playing outdoors. There is a small area within the outdoor play area that is covered. The registered provider stated that she plans on further developing this outdoor play space prior to the opening of this room on 1st July 24

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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.

- It is proposed that a nutritious and varied diet will be prepared, cooked and served daily by the chef on site.
- A sample copy of a weekly menu was available.
- Suitable crockery and cutlery are available for the children’s use at mealtimes. This was observed at time of inspection when children were observed having their hot meal at lunch time that consisted of chicken, mashed potato, carrots and gravy served in age-appropriate bowls for this age group. Staff were present to assist the children with their food and drink as required.

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:

The requirements have been met.

- The main door to the service is secured by a press and release mechanism system located at adult height beside the main entrance door. This will reduce the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premise or children leaving the premise unsupervised.
- All toys and play equipment in the proposed playroom are safe and in good condition.
- Blind cords were securely anchored. Blinds will be used as a measure to dim the light in the converted playroom into a sleep room at sleep times.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was thermostatically controlled warm water at all wash hand basins throughout the facility. There were liquid soap and a choice of disposable paper towels, or an electric hand dryer were available at all the wash hand basins for hygienic hand washing and hygienic hand drying in the adult and children’s toilet and nappy changing facilities. There was a tiled splashback on the walls beside wash hand basins and nappy changing areas allowing easy to clean surfaces. • Lidded, foot pedal operated bins, are available throughout the service including in the children’s toilet and nappy changing facilities. • Cleaning equipment and materials are stored in areas that are inaccessible to children.
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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The available documentary evidence demonstrates that four of the adults employed at the service holds up to date certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training. At least one of the adults will be available on the premises at all times during the hours of operation.

(2)

- (a) The first aid boxes in the service were stored in a conspicuous location at adult height.
- (b) The first aid box was adequately stocked and readily accessible by staff.

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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) The requirement is met in relation to the provision of a form for recording monthly fire drills.

(b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment and wired smoke alarm were available on file. It was recorded that the fire equipment and the smoke alarm system was last serviced on the 10th January 2024.

(4) A fire evacuation notice is displayed in the service.

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.

A record of the current insurance cover for 91 children was available on file and the insurance cover commenced on the 28th March 2024 and expires on the 27th March 2025.

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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) From a visual assessment, no mould or cracks were visible on the premise.
- (b) The entrance door to the early years' service is adequately secured to prevent access by an unauthorised adult.
- (c) There are openable windows in the proposed playroom and nappy changing facility.
There is adequate light in the care room, sleep room and toilet facilities is supplied by a combination of natural light and ceiling lights, with protective covers.
Heating is provided by under floor heating and was last serviced in August 2023.
The playroom air temperature and nappy changing area air temperature were recorded at between 18 and 19°C during the inspection.
- (d) The required daily and weekly cleaning schedules templates were available that included the playrooms, play equipment and nappy changing area.
- (e) There is a designated nappy changing area and wash hand basin provided for the proposed playroom. In total there are seven designated children's toilets and three nappy changing facilities. There are three designated toilet and wash hand basins available for use by the adults.
The premise is serviced by a public sewage system and the water source is from a public supply.
It is acknowledged that since the last inspection in 2022, an extensive, refurbishment and renovation has taken place on the first floor of the childcare facility. There is now a new administration office, a new sensory room, a designated area for staff lockers, two new designated adult toilets and wash hand basins, three new children's toilets and wash hand basins. The Astronauts and Jupiter playroom has been extended to provide more space and interest areas in the room. The staff kitchen, dining area and sitting area have been revamped and there is a new designated utility room to store washing machine, dryer and sluice area.

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) The service proposes to convert the current designated sleep room into a playroom and will be known as the Little Stars room. The room measured 17 square meters. The room has space to accommodate a maximum of 6 children aged between 1 and 2 years at 2.80 square meters per child. The service proposes to commence this room as a playroom for children aged between 1 and 2 years from the 1st July 2024
- (2) This playroom has sufficient floor space for the 6 children aged between 1 and 2 years
- (3) Not applicable as this room is catering for children from 1 to 2 years only.