

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2015CC206

Name of Service Knockskeagh Montessori Preschool

Address of Service: Lyre
Clonakilty
Cork

Email Address: Finnshirley58@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Shirley Finn

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

Proposed change:

- Addition of a second care room
- Increase in number of children catered for at any one time from 22 to 44.
- Change from a part time and sessional care to part time care.
- Change in hours of operation from 9am – 12 and 12.30 – 3.30pm to 9am – 2pm.

Proposed Number of Children: 44 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Part-time care for 44 Sessional/40 Part-time children

Registered change: Part-time care for 44 Sessional/40 Part-time children

Date of Inspection: 2 5 0 8 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: V. McCarthy

Title: Early Years Inspector

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

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Part-Time service from 09:00 – 14:00 for 44 Sessional/40 Part-time children at any one time.
Date of Registration	30 th August 2023

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	Knockskeagh Montessori Preschool is a privately operated service that caters for early years children aged between 2 to 6 years. The proposed opening hours are 9 am to 2pm.
Premises	Knockskeagh Montessori Preschool currently operates out of 1 care room situated in a prefabricated structure that is located on the grounds of Knockskeagh National School. It is proposed that a second a prefabricated building, situated adjacent to the current structure, will be available with a second care room and toilet facilities. There is a designated outdoor play area available on the grounds of the National School for use by the early years children.
Staffing	The service is currently carried out by the registered provider and one other adult. It is proposed that there will be 5 adults working directly with the children.
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 who was present on the day of the inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) The service has a record of the named person in charge and the name of an adult who can deputise as required displayed on the notice board at the premises.

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)

An adequate number of adults will be available to work directly with the children. inspection. The registered provider informed the inspector that the adult child ratios as per the regulations will always be maintained. It is proposed that there will be 5 adults caring for up to 44 children at any one time.

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*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The low shelving and containers in each of the 2 care rooms are furnished with a wide selection of toys and play materials that are all functioning and maintained in good condition. The shelves, presses and storage containers are situated at a low height so that all items are accessible to the children.

(b) There are adequate rest facilities consisting of soft mats and cushions provided in each of the 2 care rooms. There is a supply of 2 sleep mats and a supply of linen available on the premises for any child aged over 2 years that may require a sleep.

(2)(b), (3)(a) There is an outdoor play area for children’s use provided on the school grounds. The perimeter of the outdoor play area is secured by fencing and secured gates.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.
The food available for the children’s snack and meal is provided by the children’s respective parents and guardians. A supply of appropriate crockery and cutlery is available for children’s use at their food breaks. A fridge is available in each of the 2 care rooms to store the children’s perishable food. The children’s individual labelled water bottles will be stored on a low table in each of the two care rooms so that a child may easily access a drink of water if he/she is thirsty.
The registered provider informed the inspector that the service adheres to a Healthy Eating policy.

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 requirement has been met.

- The main entrance door to each care room is secured by a lock to reduce the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premises or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- Each of the 2 care rooms at the service has its own first aid box which is stored on a high shelf and locked press respectively out of children’s reach.
- The outdoor play area is secured by fencing and secured gates that reduce the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premises or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- All toys and play equipment were noted to be safe and in good condition in both care rooms.
- Liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated bins are provided, adjacent to each of the children’s wash hand basins situated in the lobbies adjacent to the 2 care rooms.
- The emersion units that are positioned at child height in 2 of the toilet cubicles have been boxed in so that children cannot access hot water pipes.
- The temperature of the water at the wash hand basins is thermostatically controlled to a temperature of no greater than 43°C. The water from the hot water taps was recorded at 34.7°C on the day of inspection.
- Wall hooks are provided in each care room for the storage of children’s coats and personal belongings.
- Flexes and leads are not accessible to the children.
- The emergency exit doors in both care rooms are kept unobstructed.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

- Cleaning agents are stored on high shelving or in the secured storeroom out of reach from the children.

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—
- is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
 - is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The inspector noted that 2 adults have completed the First Aid Response (FAR) training and these certificates are available on file.

(2)

There is a first box provided in each of the 2 care rooms and each is suitably equipped. The first aid boxes are always on the premises and kept stored out of children's reach.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - 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) A record of monthly fire drills carried out at the premises is available on file. The last fire drill was carried out on 13 June 2023.

(b) There is a record available on file regarding the number and type of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The fire extinguishers were last serviced during September 2022 and the wired smoke alarms were serviced during February 2023.

(4)

There are notices to be followed in the event of fire displayed throughout the premise. A designated assembly point is available at the end of the school playing pitch.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.
An insurance certificate with details is available on file. The service is insured for 44 early years children attending part time care. The insurance refers to details about fire, theft, and public liability cover. The expiry date on the insurance certificate is 27 November 2024.

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 care rooms are situated in 1 storey modular/prefabricated structures. It is proposed that the additional early years children will be catered for in the newly installed modular/prefabricated structure which is provided with its own toilet areas and storeroom. The 2 structures appear to be clean and maintained in good condition.

(b)
The premise is connected to the public water supply and a public sewage system. Each care door is secured by a lock that prevents unauthorised access or the leaving of an unsupervised child. A perimeter fence and secured gates surround the outdoor area.

(c)
Each of the care rooms has ceiling lights and windows for the provision of light. The windows in both care rooms are fitted with high opening windows for ventilation. The toilet cubicles are fitted with mechanical ventilation. The service radiators are wall mounted in each of these two care rooms and each radiator is fitted with a thermostat so that the registered provider can ensure that the surface contact is maintained less than 50°C.
On the day of inspection, the air room temperature was recorded at 20.7°C.

(d)
Both care rooms are maintained in clean and good condition. Detailed cleaning schedules are available on the premise.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(e) The 2 care rooms each have 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins for children's use. There are no nappy changing facilities available. The toilet facility for adults is based on the school premises. In total there are 4 toilets for use by children and 1 toilet for use by the adults. Therefore, there is an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins for the proposed 44 early years children and 5 adults on the premise.

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.
- (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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(2)(4)</p> <p>The proposed care room was measured at 51m². The current care room was measured at 42m².</p> <p>The minimum space requirement for children aged 2 to 3 years is 2.35m² and for children aged three years or over attending part time care service is 2.3 square metres or 1.818 square metres whilst attending Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) service.</p> <p>The service has adequate space for the proposed 44 early years children at the premises depending on the number and age of the children attending part time care at any one-time.</p>
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