

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015CN036

**Name of Service:** Little Buds Childcare

**Address of Service:** 38 Main Street, Mullagh, Cavan, A82 C6P4.

**Email Address:** littlebudschildcare@hotmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Bernice Gardiner

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	✓	<b>Part-Time</b>	✓	<b>Sessional</b>	✓
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

**Proposed change:** Change in number of children from 49 to 56 children. (using additional space)

**Proposed Number of Children:** 56 children on a full daycare basis.

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Increase number of children from 49 to 56.

**Registered change:** Change in number of children from 49 to 56 children

**Date of Inspection:** 0 2 0 7 2 0 2 5

**Inspection undertaken by:** S Mc Kenna

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Drumalee, Co Cavan. H12 YY84

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### Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 56 Children
Date of Registration	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2025

### 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Little Buds Childcare Service is a private Early Years' Service, located on the main street in Mullagh Town in Co Cavan. The service operates from 8am to 6pm each weekday and provides sessional, part-time and full day care to pre-school children aged from 2 years to 6 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. A school aged service is also provided.
<b>Premises</b>	The service is conducted from two adjoining converted premises and consists of three care rooms on the ground floor named: Tiny Buds, ECCE 1 and ECCE 2. The Tiny Buds room operates on a full day care basis, and the ECCE 1 and ECCE 2 rooms close at 1.30pm daily to facilitate school aged children attending these rooms in the afternoons. A school aged room, a dining area, children and staff sanitary accommodation areas, a kitchen and an office are located on the first floor. An outdoor play area is accessed directly from the three care rooms to the rear of the service. Car parking is located to the front of the premises.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service employs nineteen staff members to include the registered provider, of which ten staff work directly with pre-school children. Six staff are employed to work with school aged children, two staff work in the office, and a cook is also employed.

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<p><b>Methodology</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Acknowledgements</b></p>	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, service manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

### 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.

The service has a designated person in charge who is the registered provider, and two named persons to deputise in their absence.

### 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.

It is proposed that a total of nine adults will work across the three preschool rooms, with an additional two adults providing relief and break cover.

The registered provider is aware of the requirements of this regulation in relation to adult: child ratios.

**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.*
- (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 requirements of this regulation have been met.

(1) (a) Adequate and suitable facilities have been provided for children to play indoors during the day. A range of play materials and toys and well-resourced interest areas are available in each of the three preschool rooms.

(b) Adequate and suitable facilities are provided for the children to rest on if required. There are cosy areas in each care room with sofas, soft floor mats and cushions. Sleep mats are also available should a child require a sleep or rest while attending the service.

(3) An outdoor area located to the rear of the premises, secured by walls and a wooden gate is available to the children attending the service. A variety of physical ride on toys, a climbing structure, play kitchens and messy play spaces are provided in this area.

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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.

The children will take in their own snacks for morning and afternoon snack times. Designated refrigerators have been provided for the storage of these food items.

The service will provide breakfast where required, and a hot meal is cooked fresh on site by the service cook for all children attending on a part time and full day care basis.

Three-week menus were available for review, which demonstrated a variety of hot meals options that were adequate, suitable and nutritious for children.

The children will have access to potable drinking water throughout the day.

### 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 front entrance doors into the preschool rooms are secured by turn locks, openable by staff from the inside of the care rooms. This prevents children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised access.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed throughout the inspection.
- There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins throughout the service.
- Individual single use cloth hand towels are used by the children after handwashing, and a suitable bin to dispose of used handtowels was provided. The hand towels are laundered on site on a daily basis.
- Cleaning schedules were available for the service. Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children in lockable cupboards or on high shelving.

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- Risk assessment records are maintained.
- The designated fire assembly point is located in the outdoor area to the rear of the premises.

### 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 has ensured that there are three adults with up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training on the premises.
- (2) (a) (b) Adequately stocked first aid boxes are provided in each of the three preschool rooms and are available to the children at all times.

### 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 firefighting 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.

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- (1) (a) The registered provider demonstrated that a template to record fire drills was available, and fire drills were conducted monthly with the most recent fire drill recorded in June 2025.
- (b) There was a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment, with the most recent service of the firefighting equipment carried out on 10<sup>th</sup>. May 2025 and fire detection and alarm system carried out on 08 May 2025.
- (4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed throughout 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.

Insurance is in place for up to 76 preschool children in attendance on a Full day Care basis and expires on the 27/03/2026.

### 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 registered provider confirmed that she had no knowledge of any structural defects.

(b) The service was adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry.

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	<p>(c) The service was adequately lit and heated. The lighting was provided by a mixture of natural light leading from large windows, which was supplemented with fluorescent ceiling lights which were fitted with protective covers. The service is heated by electrical heaters. The care rooms were ventilation through openable windows, and sanitary facilities were ventilated by means of mechanical ventilation.</p> <p>(d) Cleaning schedules were available and in place, and the premises was maintained in a clean condition.</p> <p>(e) The children’s sanitary facilities in the service were equipped with total of 6 toilets and two nappy changing units.</p> <p>Thermostatically controlled hot, and cold water was available in all the hand wash sinks.</p> <p>There were 2 toilets available for the adults, one located on the first floor and one on the ground floor located off the Tiny Buds care room.</p>
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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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children within the three preschool rooms for the proposed 56 children
- (2) The three care rooms have sufficient space to cater for the 56 children proposed by the registered provider. The registered provider advised the inspector that the number of children attending each care room may change year to year depending on service requirements, but no more than 56 will be in attendance over the three

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preschool rooms on the ground floor at any one time. The registered provider is aware of the minimum space requirements in relation to Regulation 30.

The floor space available in the Tiny Buds room was 52m<sup>2</sup>.

The floor space available in the ECCE 1 room was 44m<sup>2</sup>.

The floor space available in the ECCE 2 room was 58m<sup>2</sup>.