

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, Co. Cavan

Email Address: littlebudschildcare@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Bernice Gardiner

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: To increase the numbers of children attending the service from 38 to 60. Use of an additional room.

Proposed Number of Children: 60

Recommended Change Following Inspection: An increase in number of children attending the service from 38 to 49.
The additional care room can accommodate an additional 11 children aged 2 – 3 years on a sessional basis.
(The area available for the proposed care room at the time of inspection was reduced as an office was now in taking up some of the space).

Registered change: Change in Number of Children from 38 to 49 children

Date of Inspection: 2 6 0 8 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: AM Cunningham

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Early Years Inspectorate
Family Resource Centre
Commons Road
Navan Co. Meath

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 49 children
Date of Registration	9th October 2024

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	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 8.00am to 6.00pm each weekday and provides sessional, part-time and full day care to pre-school children aged from 2 years to 6 years. A school aged service is also provided.
Premises	The service is conducted from a converted premises and currently consists of two care rooms on the ground floor and a school aged room on the first floor. An outdoor play area is accessed directly from the pre-school. The proposed new service is adjoining the existing service which was a commercial unit now converted into a care room with its own entrance door which opens onto the street.
Staffing	Two staff members will work in the new preschool room.
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</p>

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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 was 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. The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy.
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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:	(1) The requirement has been met. The registered provider states that 2 staff members will be working directly with the 11 pre-school children that will attend the preschool room.
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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.

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 toys and equipment are available in the care room. An outdoor area which is safe, secure and suitable has been provided which is fenced, walled and gated.
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(b) Adequate and suitable facilities are provided for the children to rest on if required. There is a cosy corner with a large soft mat and cushions and small plastic covered couch. Sleep mats are also available should a child require to lie down.

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 the children in this room will be attending on a sessional basis for three hours. The children will bring in lunches for their morning snack and these will be stored in the new fridge stored in the hallway. The children have access to potable drinking water, and their own drinks. The registered provider also stated food is available for any child that may forget their snack.

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 inspector did not identify any hazards that would impact the health, safety or welfare of the children attending the service. It appeared that appropriate measures had been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children, for example.

- All storage areas have been made inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- The external doors are appropriately secured. The front door will be secured and opened solely by a member of staff to control access to the service.
- All cleaning agents will be stored on a high shelf out of the reach of children and medications are stored in the kitchen.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid

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- (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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The registered provider has ensured there is an adult with up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training on the premises. Two valid FAR certificates are available for inspection.</p> <p>(2)(a) An adequately stocked first aid box is provided in the service.</p> <p>(b)The first aid box is available to the pre-school children at all times.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) There is a log in place to record any fire drills that will take place.</p> <p>(b) There is a written record of the number type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises dated May 2024.</p> <p>(4) There is a notice displayed of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.</p>
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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 the preschool children which covers a maximum of 60 children and expires on the 27/3/25.

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 partially met.

(a)The service is operating from a premises which appears to be structurally sound.

(b)The service is safe and secure with a locked entrance. The outdoor areas are fenced and secured.

(c) Lighting is provided by means of natural light and supplemented with 3 covered fluorescent lights in the care room and 1 in the storage area. There is a large window and 1 door with glass panels. There is fluorescent lighting in the sanitary area. The room temperature in the care room is adequate and comfortable. Heating is by means of electric radiators. The registered provider has two radiator covers to be fitted to the electric storage heaters.

(d) The premises, toys and equipment are in a clean condition and in good repair. Cleaning schedules are available.

(e)Adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation is provided i.e. 2 toilets and 1 hand basin in sanitary accommodation located down the hallway from the care room. A staff toilet is available within the nappy changing area with one sink. The sanitary area has a continuous supply of thermostatically controlled running water, a supply of liquid soap and a wall mounted mechanical hand dryer. Additionally, there is one sink in the care room.

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Requirement not met:	(c) Ventilation: The care room and sanitary accommodation toilets for children and staff are not adequately ventilated.
Response from Provider:	(c) mechanical ventilation has been installed in the children’s toilets. A window has been installed in the hallway and a half door to the care room to provide ventilation.
Summary Comment:	The response from the registered provider has addressed the noncompliance in Regulation 29. Photographs of the mechanical ventilation installed in both children’s toilets; and the window and half door installed in the care room has been received by the inspectorate.

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:	<p>(1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement of the increased number of pre-school children proposed to attend the service.</p> <p>(2)(3)(4) The requirement has been met.</p> <p>There is a floor space of 20m² which is adequate to accommodate 11 pre-school children aged 2-3 years attending on a sessional basis.</p>
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