

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2015CN057

Name of Service Sticky Fingers Montessori and Daycare

Address of Service: Millview, Moynehall, Cavan, Co. Cavan. H12 D780

Email Address: stickyfingerscavan@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Lorraine Heaslip

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: Change in Number of Children from 34 to 40 children (Additional room)

Proposed Number of Children: 40

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Number of Children that can be accommodated can be changed from 34 to 40 children where all children are attending on a sessional basis.
Where all children attend on a full day/part time basis this number is reduced to 31 as per the information outlined in Regulation 30.

Registered change: Change in number of children from 34 to 40(Max 31 full day/part-time) children

Date of Inspection:	2	3	0	2	2	0	2	6
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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

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 40(Max 31 Full Day/Part-Time) Children
Date of Registration	12 March 2026
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	Sticky Fingers Montessori & Day Care is a privately operated Early Years' Service located in Cavan town, in operation since 1997. The childcare service currently provides full day care, part time and sessional care to children aged 2 to 6 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9am to 12 midday. The service is open 47 weeks per year (closing from mid-July to late-August), operating 8am to 5.15pm Monday to Thursday and 8am to 1pm on Fridays.
Premises	The childcare service comprises of two pre-school rooms, of which the Beaver Pre-school Room is in the main building, and the Racoon Pre-school Room is in a prefabricated building to the rear of the main building. There is a total of four outdoor play areas provided which includes a Perspex covered enclosed play area connecting the prefabricated building to the main building. Car parking is available for set down and collection at the front of the premises.
Staffing	Six staff members are employed in the service, including the registered provider.
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</p>

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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 a named person 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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

It is proposed that a total of 5 adults will work across the two preschool rooms, with 1 additional adult providing relief and break/lunch cover.

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

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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.
- (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
 - (b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

Requirement met:

The requirements of this regulation have been met.

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

(b) Adequate and suitable facilities are provided for the children to rest and sleep. Three stackable beds suitable for children aged 2 years and above are provided. Individual bed linen is supplied by the service.

There are cosy areas in each of the care rooms where children can rest and relax during their time in the service.

(3)

There is a total of 4 designated outdoor play areas available for children's use.

The outdoor area to the rear of the premises had a decking area with chairs and slides, bark areas with plastic and wooden playhouses, a grass area with wooden and plastic climbing structures and slides, tyres, see-saws and a tunnel for children's use.

The front outdoor area had a tarmac surface with a variety of ride-on trucks available for use in this area.

The outdoor area between both care rooms was fully covered and was laid out similarly to the indoor environments and provided a space for children to play outside during inclement weather conditions.

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A small area located to the side of the building had space for children to take part in planting activities, and a fairy garden provided additional play opportunities.

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.

A weekly menu of snacks and meals provided to the children was available, which demonstrated a variety of hot meal options that were adequate, suitable and nutritious for children. The hot meals are purchased from an external catering company and reheated on site. Breakfast is provided up to 9am, and the children take in their own morning snack from home, which is stored in the fridge until snack time. Both preschool rooms operate a rolling snack schedule where children can have their morning snack anytime between 9am and 11am.

The hot meal is served daily at 12.30pm, and an afternoon snack is provided at 3.30pm.

The children have access to potable drinking water. A fridge is available in the kitchen and in the covered area between both care rooms for the storage of perishable food items.

The registered provider advised the inspector that additional food items are available in the kitchen should a child have insufficient amounts for their age and for the time spent in the service on a particular day.

Dietary requirements are met through the provision of snack and meal alternatives where required.

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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 entrance into the service is through a secured lockable gate to the side of the premises. Parents and visitors must ring the doorbell and the staff come out to meet them to permit access to the premises.
- Steps and handrails, where present, are maintained in good condition.
- There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste, including the provision of suitable nappy bins and foot pedal-operated bins in the designated sanitary and nappy changing area.
- Individual single-use paper towels were provided for handwashing purposes.
- Cleaning schedules were available for the service. Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children.
- Risk assessment records are in place.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed throughout the inspection.
- The designated fire assembly point is located at the front of the premises.

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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 registered provider has ensured that there are 4 adults with up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training employed to work in the service.

(2) (a) (b) Adequately stocked first aid boxes were provided in each of the care 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.

(1) (a) The registered provider demonstrated that a template to record fire drills is available, and fire drills were conducted monthly.

(b) There is a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment was carried out in April 2025, and the fire detection and alarm system was carried out in January 2026.

(4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed on walls and doors throughout the service.

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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.

An insurance quote valid to 27/03/2026 was provided, which covers a maximum of 40 preschool children in attendance on a full-day care basis.

The registered provider advised that adequate insurance will be in place once Tusla confirms the date on which the service can operate at the higher capacity of 40 children.

The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.'

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 is adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry.

(c) The service is adequately lit and heated. The lighting is provided by a mixture of natural light leading from windows, which is supplemented with fluorescent ceiling lights which were fitted with protective covers. The service is heated by oil central heating. The care rooms and sanitary areas were maintained at a temperature of 21°C.

The care rooms and sanitary areas are ventilated by openable windows.

(d) Cleaning schedules were available and in place, and the premises are maintained in a clean condition.

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(e) The children’s sanitary facilities in the service were equipped with a total of 4 toilets and 4 wash hand basins. A nappy changing area is provided within one of the sanitary areas in the main building.

Thermostatically controlled warm water to a maximum of 41°C was available in all of the hand-washing sinks.

There is one toilet available for the adults, located in the main building.

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:

- (1) The requirement has been met.
- (2) Adequate, clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children within the two preschool care rooms.
- (4) The following floor space is available.
- The Beaver room, located in the main building, is 34m².
 - The space available can cater for 18 children aged 2 years 6 months to 6 years on a sessional basis. And for 14 children aged 2 to 3 years or 3 to 6 years old on a part-time or full-day care basis.
 - The Raccoon room, located in the prefabricated building, is 41m².
 - The space available can cater for 22 children aged 2 years 6 months to 6 years on a sessional basis. And for 17 children aged 2 to 3 or 3 to 6 years old on a part-time or full-day care basis.