

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015DL065

**Name of Service:** Little Acorns Montessori Playschool

**Address of Service:** Gaelic Park, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal. F93 WD62

**Email Address:** accounts@mylittleacorns.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Ms. Sarah Quigley-Burns and Ms. Jennifer Grant

<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:** Increase to 206 children.  
Change age profile of children from 1–6 to 6 months - 6  
Increase in number of staff from 34 to 46.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 206 (changed to 181 on inspection)

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Increase to a maximum of 181 (subject to the age range of the children attending) at any one time.  
Approve change in age profile and number of staff.

**Registered change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 140 to 181.  
Change in age profile of children from 1 – 6 to 6 months – 6 years.  
Change in number of staff from 34 to 46.

<b>Dates of Inspection:</b>	1	6	0	8	2	0	2	3
	0	6	0	9	2	0	2	3

**Inspection undertaken by Day 1:** A. Kennedy & H. Heagney

**Inspection undertaken by Day 2:** L. McGlynn & N. McEndoo

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care Service for 181 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> November 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	This privately operated early years' service is in ten ground floor retail units, on the outskirts of the town of Carndonagh. This service offers a full day care and part time care provision from 7.00hrs to 19.00hrs. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme and sessional care programme are also offered. The service is registered to cater for school aged children with a breakfast club, afterschool programme and holiday camps. The person in charge advised a child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on emerging interests will be provided.
<b>Premises</b>	This ground floor retail facility has ten units namely 8,10,11,12,13,14a,14b,15,16, and 17. The purpose of this fit for purpose inspection, is a change in the number of children and the age profile of children, in the following units – namely 10,11,12,13, and 14a. The unit named 14b is solely for use by the school aged children and therefore not part of this fit for purpose inspection.  The premises has its own kitchen, where children's main meals and snacks are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There are two designated sleep rooms with a total of twenty cots for infant and younger children's sleep provision. There are outdoor play areas on two sides of the premises for children's play, exploration, and fresh air.
<b>Staffing</b>	There are two registered providers, one registered provider is supernumerary, and the second registered provider works directly with the children. There are currently thirty-four staff, and the service is proposing to increase the number of staff to forty-six. It is proposed all staff who will work directly with the children will hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 or over, in Early Childhood Care and Education. There is a designated chef who prepares, cooks, and serves the daily meals and snacks. There is a person is employed to do ongoing maintenance and cleaning.

<b>Methodology</b>	<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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<p>The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge and staff who were present on the days 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:**

(1)(a)

The requirement was met.

There is a designated person in charge and a named person available to deputise in the service.

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.

(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:**

(1)

The requirements has been met.

It is proposed that there will be an adequate number of staff working directly with the pre-school children.

It is proposed that there will be a maximum of

- Twenty-two children aged 2 years to 2 years and 10 months, at any one time, in unit 10 and the adjacent room 1 and room 2, with a minimum of four staff, who hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education working directly with the proposed pre-school children.
- Twenty-two children at any one time, in unit 11, aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years, with a minimum of two staff, who hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education working directly with the proposed pre-school children.
- Ten to twelve children at any one time in unit 12, aged from 6 months to 2 years, with a minimum of three to four staff, who hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education working directly with the proposed pre-school children.
- Twelve to fifteen children at any one time, in unit 13, aged 6 months to 2 years, with a minimum of three to four staff, who hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education working directly with the proposed pre-school children.
- Twenty-two children at any one time, in unit 14a, aged 2 years 8 month to 6 years, with a minimum of two staff, who hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education working directly with the proposed pre-school children.

Where children of different ages are cared for in one room, the space requirement is calculated based on each child's age and their length of stay in the service.

(8)(a)

There will be at least two adults on the premises at all times during the operating hours of the service.

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.
- (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.

**Requirement met:**

(1)(a)

The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was thereby readily accessible to the proposed pre-school children.

**Unit 10**

Materials and items included art and craft materials including paints, brushes, stick on dots, eyes, and art trays. There were tables and chairs. There were water and sand basins with utensils. On one wall there was a display regarding birthdays.

Adjacent to unit 10 was a room namely 'room 1', with a fixed large floor to ceiling play gym with a slide, a vantage area, a punch bag area, a tunnel, netting, steps, foam matting and shapes. Additionally, there was a separate area in this room with floor mats. There was also a slide and a tabletop.

Adjacent to unit 10 was another room namely 'room 2', with five fixed playhouses.

Within the playhouses there was a home corner with a shopping trolley, a selection of push cars and tricycles, a low table, and child size seating. There were tracks, baskets, links, dolls, blocks, and wooden pieces. There was a separate ball pool with balls, slides, and steps. Additional materials and items included books, helmets, puzzles, transport vehicles, links, dolls, and blocks.

**Unit 11**

Materials and items included a water basin with utensils, and an activity tabletop.

There were animals, dinosaurs, a dinosaur egg, stacking items, bricks, blocks, pins, and wooden pieces. There were dolls, baby baths, and musical instruments.

There was a 'pipe and ball' tent that the children could build. There were puppets, a globe, and a slide for active play. There was a construction table with tools and helmets for building. There were art and craft materials including stencils, playdough cutters, shapes, paints, paint brushes, scissors, stickers, and blackboards for creative opportunities. There was a large dolls house with small world items for fine motor skill development. There was a kitchen with a washing machine, and a shop register for role play opportunities. There was dress up clothing, hair heads, and vanity accessories. Displayed on the walls were educational posters, and visual aids including days of the week, life cycle of the frog, our class, birthdays, footprints, and space. There were also fairy lights.

**Unit 12**

Materials and items included books, blocks, and musical instruments. There were two push cars, and balls. There was a sand unit and a water activity tray with utensils. There were trays, transport vehicles, animals, soft toys, and a bean bag. Displayed on the walls were photographs of children and a notice board.

**Unit 13**

There were art and craft items including trays, glitter, chalk, sponges, markers, stickers, and stampers. There were animals, cuddly toys, and teddies. There were wheeled toys, loose parts, and insets. There was a ball pool with balls and a parachute. There were push and pull toys, ride on toys, push cars, a shopping trolley, prams, rockers, and a slide. There was a kitchen and food items. Displayed on the walls were children's artwork, our birthdays, the sun, and a cloud. There were decorations hanging from the ceiling.

**Unit 14a**

Materials and items of interest included insets, puzzles, games, blocks, tracks, suckers, reels, bricks, and pegs. There were children's tables and chairs. There were Montessori towers, pins, counters, connectors, baskets, numbers, and the alphabet. There were small animals, books, small world, transport vehicles, and tracks. There were water and sand basins, a dress up rail, for creative opportunities. There was a play kitchen, birthday cake and houses.

There were cuddly toys, prams, dolls, baskets, utensils, egg cartons, a play pizza, and wooden rainbows for role play. There were art and craft materials, including pencils, paints, playdough, an easel, and art trays. There were foam mats, rockers, two chairs and cushions.

Displayed on the walls there were visual aids, posters, and artwork with themes including days of the week, birthday bees, and imagination blooms.

(1)(b)

There were two designated sleep rooms with a total of twenty cots, for infants and younger children's sleep provision. There were twenty stackable beds available in the pre-school service, for any older child requiring sleep provision.

(3)(a)

**Outdoor area**

The person in charge advised that the children would have the opportunity to be outside, in all suitable weather conditions.

The outdoor areas were surrounded by fencing, walls, and gates. The outdoor areas were on both sides of the premises and divided into different play areas. There was a combination of gravel, bark and impact absorbing all weather surfaces, which were surrounded by tarmac and concrete pathways. The day-to-day outdoor play equipment and materials were stored in resource bins.

The five outdoor areas for children attending units 10,11,12,13, and 14a were inspected.

**To the side of the premises was Area 1 and 2**

**Area 1**

This was a gravel surface. There were cones, helmets, buckets, and tyres. There was a mud kitchen, a slide, and a tree.

	<p><b>Area 2</b></p> <p>There was a real-world stove / cooker, a mud kitchen, wooden pieces, a fishing net, scooters, a climbing frame and three swings.</p> <p><b>To the other side of the premises</b> (via a pedestrian crossing) <b>was Area 3, 4 and 5.</b></p> <p><b>Area 3</b></p> <p>There was an impact absorbing all-weather pitch, with a tarmacadam pathway. There were tyres, four resource bins and wildflowers adjacent to the pathway.</p> <p><b>Area 4</b></p> <p>This grass bark area had three swings, a table, wooden pallets, logs, a bridge, and trees. There were resource bins for the storage of toys.</p> <p><b>Area 5</b></p> <p>This had a wooden all-weather sheltered area with seating.</p>
<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In unit 12, there was not enough varied materials and equipment, to suit the potential children (aged between 6 months to 2 years) and their potential interests and skill levels. There were not sufficient play materials for problem solving, language development and creative play with a variety of colours, textures, designs, shapes, and sizes for the potential children, aged 6 months to 2 years, to experiment with and explore freely. It was noted that there were nine storage boxes on a shelving area in unit 12. In these storage boxes there were items of children’s indoor and outdoor clothing, blankets, and folders with documentation, rather than suitable play equipment and materials. In unit 12, there were no safe and comfortable spaces for the infants, toddlers, or children not walking, to lie, roll, creep, crawl, pull themselves up, learn to walk, and to be protected from children who would be more mobile.</li> <li>2. In unit 10,11,12,13, and 14a, there were no natural materials available for sensorial play to encourage enhance critical thinking, problem solving and reasoning skills.</li> <li>3. On day 1 of inspection, there were two 8-seater ‘baby tables’ in unit 12 and unit 13, and no alternative child size tables and chairs in these units.</li> </ol>

The potential children using these 8-seater ‘baby tables’ would not have the opportunity to move about freely and explore their environment or to opt in and opt out of an activity. When an infant or child is in a piece of equipment that constrains their movement, they cannot be in it for longer than fifteen minutes, other than at meals or snack times.

4. In unit 13, there was a large, mounted sensory frame, that was not suitable for the potential children’s age and stage of development. The frame had a xylophone, switches, a door handle, a keyboard, a square of artificial grass, a chain lock, a tap, a blackboard, a brush, and counters. The person in charge advised that unit 13 would have children aged between 6 months to 2 years of age and that this sensory frame would be removed from unit 13.
5. In units 12 and 13, displayed topics of interest were not at a child’s eye level for them to easily view. It is acknowledged on the day of inspection, that many photographs were displayed at adult level.
6. The outdoor facilities were not organised so that they would engage every proposed child in the learning environment and promote safe physical play and activity for children of different age groups and capabilities.

For example,

There were no bespoke safe and comfortable outdoor spaces provided for potential children who would not yet be walking.

7. There was no quiet relaxation area for the children to have rest chill time, in unit 10, and unit 11.

In unit 14a, the quiet rest area was inadequately resourced and required further development, as there were only two basket chairs with cushions and a mat to potentially cater for the proposed 22 pre-school children.

In units 12 and 13, the soft couch was frayed and torn requiring replacement and repair. The early years inspectors observed that in unit 12, the soft couch was positioned on artificial grass and there was no alternative soft matting surfaces available for the proposed children aged between 6 months to 2 years.

**Response from Provider:**

The registered provider advised of the following-

1. Unit 12 and 13 are joined together and are separated by a visibility door during the nursery session. Unit 13 stores all of the play materials that are used by both rooms, throughout the day. The shelves have been placed horizontally making all the play materials easily accessible to the children. Play materials have now been stored in the yellow horizontal shelf in unit 12. Photographic evidence showing play materials stored on a yellow storage area in unit 12 were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographs of the internal half door that enables easy flow between both rooms were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographs of soft foam play areas and soft floor matting now installed in various areas of unit 12 and 13 to enable children aged 6 months to roll, have tummy time and to sit were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. These surfaces can be moved around the room to support various play activities structured and unstructured.
2. Photographs of children engaging in messy play activities (at water basins, playing with foam shapes, threading, and painting) that children engaged in. A range of wooden and natural materials are available for sensorial play have been purchased for these rooms.
3. The baby tables are used for mealtimes and very small group planned play activities. The service is very happy to install very low legs on the tables to enable children's legs to touch the floor during mealtimes. We will then purchase ergonomic seating for staff to enable them to sit down at the table to promote home from home mealtime experiences. The service wants to ensure that the adult seats used during mealtimes support pregnant staff.  
 Photographic evidence of samples baby tables with lower legs and capacity for four children and evidence of highchairs used previously by the service were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. In addition, the service submitted evidence of alternative child size tables to be used and to use baby tables at meal time only.

4. The sensory wall in unit 13 has been covered in hygiene board to enable cleaning. New materials have been added to it to provide more textures and sensory areas of interest. Photographic evidence of a white unit with sensorial items including a counter, a keyboard and mobile rings, bands and connectors were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
5. Photographic evidence showing relocation of photographic displays in unit 12 and 13, at a child's eye level were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. The service has purchased large perspex sheets which will cover printed photographs which will be changed each month to make the displays easily cleanable.
6. Due to bad weather the service has been concentrating on carrying out internal modifications to each room. The three gravel gardens are next to be worked on. Photographic evidence showing that the stove has been removed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. The sink has been hooked up to the water supply. The musical activity area has been cleared and awaiting works to commence. For children who would not yet be walking / younger children, they will use the outdoor classroom garden until modifications have been made. In Area 2, the tripping hazard between gate and garden has now been covered with rubber mat. In addition, the service submitted further evidence of work been completed in the outdoor area.
7. Soft sofa beds have been purchased for unit 10 and 14a.  
 The service has created temporary cosy areas in each unit, until the sofas have been filled and stuffed with pads. Photographic evidence of temporary sitting arrangement was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Evidence of proof of purchase of an assortment of seating and a steam cleaner and a leather patch swatch were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. The service has purchased a steam cleaner to assist in cleaning upholstery and chairs. Replaceable covers for adult seating were purchased and they can be washed and replaced weekly. The leather patch swatches will be used on the soft sofas, that require to be mended.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### Summary Comment:

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The requirements not met identified under Regulation 20, point 1.2.3, 4.5, 6. and 7 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

### 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 requirements has been met.

- The service had a healthy eating policy.
- The person in charge advised that the service will offer the following to all children attending sessional, part time and full day care.  
  
From 7.00hrs to 9.30hrs, a selection of cereals, toast and milk will be offered.  
From 10.00hrs to 10.30hrs, a snack with two groups will be offered.  
From 12.15hrs to 13.00hrs, the main meal cooked on site will be served.  
From 15.30hrs, a snack with two food groups will be offered.
- The person in charge advised that the children attending the service on a full day care basis will have two meals, and two snacks, supplied by the service and each meal will have two food groups.
- The person in charge advised that the hot meals and snacks will be prepared, cooked, and stored on site in the services designated kitchen.
- Drinks of milk and water will be offered for each child’s meal / snack time.
- The person in charge advised that a drinks table will be available in each of the units and in the outdoor play areas, to allow the children the opportunity to ‘self-serve’ their drinks.
- The person in charge advised that if a child required infant formula, then it would be prepared at home in accordance with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) best practice guidance and stored in the refrigerator in the units 12 and 13.

- There were two dry store pantries for the storage of additional food items, if a potential child showed any signs of hunger.

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:**

**General Safety**

- There was a buzzer access system into the main ‘reception’ entrance door.
- The external play areas were secure so that children could not leave these areas unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter these areas.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance were kept for all of the children, that will be attending the pre-school.
- The air conditioning unit and heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- There was signage and visual aids on the glass doors, as a safety precaution.
- There were records of a regular pest control system with the last service record dated 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2023.
- There was a documented daily risk assessment system for the indoor and outdoor play areas. The service had ‘a daily opening risk checklist’.

**Infection Control**

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- A refrigerator was provided in the main kitchen and 14a, for the storage of perishable foods. A refrigerator was available for the suitable storage of infants’ formula feeds in unit 12 and 13.
- Units 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14a were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the air conditioning unit and doors left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.

**Requirement not met:**

**General Safety**

1. In unit 14a, the children had access to the kitchen, which had a kettle, toaster, hot plate, fridge, and cooker posing a potential safety risk. It is acknowledged that the person in charge advised on day 1 of inspection, that this kitchen area would be partitioned so that it was inaccessible to the children. In units 10,11,12, and 13, there was a kettle, hot plate, and a microwave on an open countertop, which may pose a potential safety risk to the children. It is acknowledged that the person in charge advised that the dishwashers in unit 10,11,12,13, and 14a, would only be used when the children were not in attendance and the service would ensure that the controls were inaccessible to a pre-school child.
2. There were two 8-seater ‘baby tables’ in unit 12 and 13. A 5-way safety harness system was not evident. A safety harness system is required for infants and young children to ensure a child is seated at tables that are between their waist and mid-chest level, that allows the seated child’s feet to rest on a firm surface. Using the baby tables, a staff member would be required to physically lift each child, posing a potential risk of repetitive injury.
3. There was no evidence available for review, demonstrating that the large, high, fixed play gym adjacent to unit 10 in room 1, was suitable, safe, and appropriate for the ages and stages of development for the proposed pre-school children aged 2 years and 2 years and 10 months.
4. The rooms named ‘room 1’ and ‘room 2’ adjacent to unit 10, had floor to ceiling walls, resulting in the layout being a challenge for staff to monitor and supervise on an ongoing basis, for the proposed number and age range (2 years to 2 years and 10 months).
5. For the nappy changing area used by the children from unit 13, the nappy changing table was positioned to the side, resulting in the ledge of the table potentially injuring a standing young child. It was also noted that there were no step ups in the nappy changing facilities of unit 10, 12 and 13, resulting in a staff member having to physically lift the child, posing a risk of repetitive injury.

6. In a lower part of the wall in unit 10, there was protruding insulation foam, accessible to a pre-school child which may pose a safety risk.  
  
There was also protruding foam on a lower wall of the nappy changing area used by the children from unit 12, posing a potential safety risk.  
  
In the adult sanitary area used by the staff from unit 14a, there was protruding foam near the piping, posing a safety infection control risk.
7. The flexes, cables, and leads, in units 10,11,12,13 and 14a, were not fixed or secured to the walls and thereby posing a potential trips or strangulation hazard.
8. In units 12, 13 and 14a, there were play trampolines, that may pose a safety risk to children. It is acknowledged on day 1 of inspection; these trampolines were removed by the person in charge.
9. In the outdoor areas there were safety concerns -  
  
In Area 1, there was a rusty cracked stove with no door, a cracked planter, a kitchen sink with a loose tap, an incomplete musical wall, a mud kitchen with no resources, an exposed nail on the fencing, and some weeds evident.  
  
In Area 2, there was also a water pipe across the entrance gate that could potentially cause a tripping hazard. In this area there was minimal materials and play resources. The person in charge advised that there was a daily inspection system for the outdoor play equipment, however, on day 1 of inspection, there was also a bicycle with no handle grips and thereby exposed rusty bars and rubbish in one of the outdoor resource bins in Area 2.  
  
In Area 3, there was a section of protective netting surrounding the all-weather pitch that had lifted and was not secure posing a potential tripping hazard.
10. In Area 4, the bark ground cover had weed membrane protruding and was thereby a potential tripping hazard. Also, in this area there was a tabletop with cracks and potential protruding catch points.
11. There was a pest control bait box in an unsecured accessible press under the wash hand basin in unit 11, posing a potential safety risk.

12. Staff sanitary areas adjacent to units 11, and 14a and the two pantry storerooms (adjacent to the sanitary areas for unit 11), had no system of security thereby posing a potential access safety risk.
13. In unit 12, there was a heavy item of furniture named the 'red barn' that was unsuitably located adjacent to the two 'baby tables', and thereby posing a potential risk of collisions or injury to a child, aged 6 months to 2 years who would be attending this room. It is acknowledged that the person in charge advised that the 'red barn' would be removed from unit 12.
14. There was an outdoor multiple seater push pram blocking the lobby side of a fire door, between the sleep room adjacent to unit 13 and the lobby hallway, which was accessing the car park, thereby posing a potential safety risk.
15. Children's medication was inappropriately stored and accessible in a low press in unit 11, on the back of a door in a documentation holder in unit 10, and on open shelving in the nappy changing area for unit 11. Additionally, emergency labelled medication was inappropriately stored in a plastic lidded container on a shelf in the adult sanitary area used by the staff of unit 11.

#### **Infection Control**

16. On day 1 of inspection, there was no warm water available for hygienic hand washing in the two sanitary areas used by the children adjacent to unit 14a. There was no warm water in the adult sanitary area used by the staff from unit 14a.
17. The medium-density fibreboard (MDF) presses and shelving edges/ surfaces of wood that were accessible to the children, were not water resistant / intact and thereby difficult to effectively clean.  
For example -  
In unit 10, there was an absent skirting board, in one section of the playroom.  
In unit 10, a press door, side panel and the area under the children's wash hand basins showed evidence of warping.  
In unit 10, the flooring beside the storage presses was worn and warped.

In unit 11, there were three storage press doors at the lower part of the door that were worn and warped.

Between unit 11, and the room with the fixed playhouses and ball pool, the medium-density fibreboard (MDF) floor bridge required sealing and or varnishing. It was also noted there was no door between unit 11 and the room 2 with the fixed playhouses. It is acknowledged that on day 2 of the inspection, photographic evidence indicated that a half door had been fitted between room 2 and unit 11.

In the adult sanitary area adjacent to unit 11, the tiles behind the toilet were absent resulting in exposed medium density fibreboard (MDF) which would be difficult to clean and pose a risk of cross infection.

In the lobby area adjacent to unit 11 sanitary areas and the pantry storerooms, there was part of a wooden door frame absent.

In unit 13, there was a storage press that was beginning to lift, at the base.

In unit 14a, there were three presses under the children's wash hand basins where the base of the doors were warped and beginning to lift.

In the kitchen area of unit 14a, an end panel of wood was warped with evidence of chipped paint.

In unit 14a, there was a bookcase where the medium-density fibreboard (MDF) strip was absent requiring replacement.

In unit 14a, there was a wooden lath with uneven surface that required smoothing and painting.

18. In the two sanitary areas used by the children from unit 11, the wall units and or rails had been removed, resulting in holes in the walls / unsmooth areas, posing a difficulty to clean and a potential cross infection risk. In unit 11, on a lower wall adjacent to the opening into the room with the fixed playhouses, a section of the plaster had lifted, resulting in difficulty to effectively clean. There was a rusty radiator in the adult sanitary accommodation used by the staff from unit 11, posing difficulty to effectively clean.

There were rusty handrails / bars, in the adult sanitary accommodation used by the staff from unit 14a, posing difficulty to effectively clean.

19. In the nappy changing area (previously known as the laundry) used by the children from unit 13, the entrance door was absent, posing a cross infection risk. Also, in this nappy changing area, there were exposed water pipes with a gap behind the pipes / unfinished plaster and there were a number of electric sockets on the shelving, proving difficult to effectively clean. This newly converted nappy changing area had an unevenly painted wood surface and was not easy to clean. It was also noted that the adult sanitary for unit 13, had unfinished plaster and a gap behind the toilet. In this adult sanitary area, there was evidence of a water leak with staining on the lower wall and floor covering, that required further investigation.

20. There was no hand towel dispenser for the easy hygienic access to disposable hand towels, in the nappy changing area used by the staff and children from unit 13, posing a risk of cross contamination.

It was noted in the adult toilet for staff from unit 11, that the disposable paper towels were in an open basket and a white paper hand towel roll was stored on the shelf.

21. There were no foot operated airtight sealable bins for the disposal of nappies in the nappy changing areas for units 10, 12 and 13.

There was a waste bin with no lid in unit 14a and thereby waste was accessible to the children, posing a cross infection risk. There was no lid on the bin in the lobby adjacent to the children’s sanitary areas, for unit 11 posing a cross infection risk.

There was a push lidded bin rather than a foot operated bin in unit 10.

22. Unsuitable items were stored in the nappy changing areas for unit 12 and 13 including plastic bags, a baby bath, a vacuum cleaner, brushes, mops, a bag of play sand, dress-up costumes, seed pots, a modem, paper bags, metal legs, metal pipes, plant seeds, a hammer, a window scraper, wall paper rolls, a roll of unused floor covering, and art and craft supplies, posing a potential risk of cross infection.

Two boxes with a sink and set of taps and a basin were inappropriately stored on shelving, under the nappy changing table for unit 13. Additionally, there was a vacuum cleaner inappropriately stored in unit 11 and there were three large bags of flour for playdough, on the floor of unit 10. In unit 11, a staff members' coat was hanging on a hook and thereby accessible to the pre-school children. In unit 13, there was a torn frayed table cover on a children's activity table, that required replacement. Also in unit 13, there were six infant feeding bottles which had no lids, and were inappropriately stored on an open shelf, posing a cross infection risk.

23. There was evidence of dust and a build-up of debris on the ceiling ventilation covers in the children's and adult's sanitary areas for unit 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14a. There was also evidence of cobwebs in the lobby, adjacent to the children's and the adult sanitary accommodation, from unit 14a.

The early years inspectors were advised that there was a daily cleaner maintenance person but noted there was no evidence of a record of the specific cleaning details and maintenance, for the ventilation covers.

There was evidence that the ceiling light cover in the lobby area adjacent to unit 14a, had dust and dead flies.

In the designated sleep room for unit 13, there was a voile curtain with stars, between the two window blinds that served no purpose but may collect dust.

24. In unit 14a, there was a stained tunnel that required replacement and or through cleaning.

In unit 13, there was a stained and worn toy rocking horse, and a small hard back book with significant teeth marks and an activity push-along that required replacement and or through cleaning. On day 1 of inspection, the person in charge removed these items.

In unit 13, there were two adult chairs with evidence of staining.

Three of the twenty mattress protectors in the two designated sleep rooms were stained, requiring replacement and or through cleaning.

<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>The registered provider advised of the following-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All rooms have had the hot plate, kettle, and the toaster removed. The kitchen in unit 14a has been reduced in size and the oven, dishwasher and microwave have been fitted with safety devices or covers. All dishwashers and microwaves have been fitted with child safety locks or covers. The hob in 14a has been disconnected and is no longer functioning. The oven knobs have child proof covers and safety locks. Photographic evidence of cleared counter tops, and safety devices on dishwashers and microwave were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.</li> <li>2. The service has purchased a five-point harness system for the baby tables. Photographic evidence of the order confirmation for five-point harness system, was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.</li> <li>3. The service has contacted the vendor of the fixed play gym to submit evidence of its suitability for the age group attending this room which is 2 years to 2 years and 10 months. The service has also submitted a risk assessment to implement for use of the play gym and rules of engagement by the vendor for the use of this equipment.</li> <li>4. The original room was too big to allow children to engage in small group activities throughout the day. The room was divided to allow small world play in one area and afford children to engage in large motor skill activities in the other area (room 1 and room 2). The play areas were created to allow children to engage in imaginative play whilst at the same time be easily monitored by staff. Children are always supervised with the correct ratios. Unit 10 and room 1 and 2 are separated by walls and half doors to allow staff in each area to transition children between them. Children participate in a range of activities throughout the day. The design of unit 10 and room 1 and 2, affords small group activities to be carried out simultaneously. Photographs of staff observing and supervising children at play in Room 2, were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the structured and unstructured programme of care,</li> </ol>
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with floor play and small group tabletop activities were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

5. Photographic evidence of the removal of nappy changing ledges, and a divider between the nappy changing mats, and the proof of purchase of steps were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
6. Photographic evidence of a wooden cover over the protruding foam in unit 10 was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. The protruding foam on a lower wall of the nappy changing area used by the children from unit 12, has been removed. Photographic evidence of staff sanitary area was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
7. Photographic evidence that the flexes and cables have been covered by electrical trunking was submitted to the office of the early year's inspectorate.
8. The play trampolines were removed on the day of inspection.
9. Photographic evidence showing that the stove has been removed was submitted to the early years' inspectorate. The registered provider advised that the sink has been hooked up to a water supply. The musical activity area has been cleared and awaiting works to commence. In Area 2, the tripping hazard between the gate and garden has now been covered with a rubber mat. The service has purchased benches for each outdoor area.
10. Tree bark has been ordered and will also be spread in the outdoor classroom (Area 5) filling in any holes.
11. Photographic evidence showing that the pest control bait box, under the sink in unit 11, is now removed, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
12. Staff sanitary areas and pantries have been fixed with external security devises. Photographic evidence showing a high (inaccessible to children) lock on one door was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
13. The 'barn' has been removed from unit 12.
14. The lobby off unit 13 is now clear. Photographic evidence of the lobby was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

15. Wall mounted lockable medicine cabinets have been installed in all rooms and a secure locked medicine box has been put into all fridges. Photographic evidence of a wall mounted cabinet and of a box on a shelf in a fridge, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

**Infection Control**

16. A professional plumber has corrected the water temperatures at the wash hand basins in the sanitary areas adjacent to unit 14a and throughout the premises.

17. The staff sanitary areas have been refurbished. Photographic evidence of refurbished staff sanitary areas were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of refurbished repainted woodwork was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

18. Sanitary areas in unit 13 and unit 11, have been refurbished with doors and woodwork in all units repainted. Photographic evidence of refurbished repainted woodwork in these sanitary areas was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

19. In unit 13, nappy changing area, there is now a door. Photographic evidence of a door was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

20. Hand towel dispensers has been installed in the refurbished staff sanitary areas for unit 11 and unit 13.

21. New lidded waste bins have been purchased for units 10 to 14a. All nappy changing areas now have sealable pedal nappy bins. Photographic evidence of two-foot pedal waste bins and a nappy changing foot pedal bin were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

22. Unsuitable items have been removed from the nappy changing areas. Photographic evidence of sweeping brushes and mops stored on high hooks, inaccessible to the children was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Baby bottles are now stored correctly. Photographic evidence of an invoice for two bottle warmers were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>23. All vents and lights have been cleaned and will be maintained by our maintenance person, once a month. Staff have removed cobwebs from ceilings. Net curtains have been removed from the sleep rooms adjacent to unit 13 and unit 12.</p> <p>24. The stained tunnel has been replaced with two new tunnels. The staff chairs in unit 13 have been steam cleaned and replacement covers have been fitted and spare covers have been purchased. Photographic evidence of replacement covers for the staff chairs, were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.</p>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The requirements not met identified under Regulation 23, points 1 to 24 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

### 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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Twenty-two staff who will be working in the proposed pre-school service have a current paediatric first aid qualification.
- (2)(a) Suitably equipped first aid bags were stored on hooks in units 10,11,12,13, and 14a, and thereby in an easily accessible conspicuous position.
- (b) The first aid bags were readily available, with content items within date.

### 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.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>(1)(a) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills.</p> <p>(b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment in the service was on file.</p> <p>Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2023.</p> <p>Records indicated that the last annual maintenance certificate for the smoke and fire detection system was dated 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2023.</p> <p>(4) The person in charge advised that a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed at the entrance to each of the units.</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.

The service had an insurance with a commencement date of 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 and an expiry date 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, which was for a full day care service for 214 children.

The insurance included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

The registered provider(s) must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered provider(s) 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—*

- (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 requirements has been met.

- (1)
- (c) There was natural lighting in units 10,11,12,13, and 14a with glass panels and doors on one outer wall.
- Each of the proposed units 10,11,12,13, and 14a had a ceiling air conditioning and heating system.
- The artificial lighting provided in units 10,11,12,13, and 14a was integrated and shatter proof.
- The air conditioning and heating system had a thermostatically controlled thermostat to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C. Records indicated that the air conditioning heating system was last serviced on 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023.
- On day 1 of inspection, the proposed units 10,11,12, 13 and 14a, had their temperature maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- The warm water in the sanitary areas and units 10,11,12 and 13 was maintained at a safe temperature of 30.4°C and the person in charge advised it would be no greater than 43°C.
- (e) There were six designated children’s toilets with six designated children’s wash hand basins, for the children attending units 10,11, and 14a.
- There were three designated nappy changing areas with five designated nappy changing tables and mats adjacent to units 10, 12, and 13.
- The person in charge advised that there were six designated adult toilets with six designated wash hand basins in the pre-school, located adjacent to units 8,11,13,14,16 and 17.
- Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels were within easy access to a pre-school child.

<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p>29.</p> <p>(b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The fire exit door in unit 11, and in room 2, with the fixed playhouses adjacent to unit 10, had a thumb lock fitted that could potentially enable a pre-school child unauthorised access to the road. The person in charge was advised by the early years inspectors to consult with the local Donegal fire officer.</li> </ol> <p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The fire door for the designated sleep room for children from unit 13, was partially painted and required completion.</li> <li>3. At the main entrance 'reception' door, there was an outdoor metal grid which was damaged that required investigation and repair.</li> </ol> <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. In conflict with best practice, there was only one designated wash hand basin for nappy changing of the children in nappies from unit 12, when two wash hand basins were required. Additionally, there was only one designated wash hand basin in the nappy changing area adjacent to unit 10, when two were required. In the nappy changing areas for unit 10 and 12, there were two nappy changing mats on the countertop or tables, with no dividers for privacy, resulting in the possibility of a child potentially being easily viewed by another child and or a staff member, while having their nappy changed.</li> <li>5. In unit 11, there was evidence of a water leak in the press, under the wash hand basin. There was a container collecting the dripping water and this requires investigation and or repair.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>On the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2023, the registered provider advised of the following-</p> <p>(b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The service has purchased bolts and contacted the Fire Officer for Donegal. The service has submitted evidence of covers on bolts so children cannot access. The service is awaiting a written reply from the Fire Officer to confirm same.</li> </ol>

	<p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The door has been painted. Photographic evidence of the painted door was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.</li> <li>3. These grids have been repaired / replaced. Photographic evidence of replaced grids was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.</li> </ol> <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. In the nappy changing areas for unit 10 and 12, a second wash hand basin and a partition between the nappy changing tables has been fitted. Photographic evidence of the additional second wash hand basins and partitions between the nappy changing tables were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.</li> <li>5. The water leak has been addressed by a plumbing contractor and the press has been repaired. Photographic evidence of the press, under the wash hand basin, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.</li> </ol>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	<p>The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted.</p> <p>Points 1 to 5 under Regulation 29 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed again on the next inspection.</p>

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

**Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements**

*(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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for the proposed pre-school children in units 10,11,12,13 and 14a.</li> <li>(3) The floor space measurements of the proposed fit for purpose units is indicated in the table below –</li> </ol>
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# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Room name	Floor space	Proposed Age range
<b>Unit 10</b>	24.36 square metres	2 years to 2 years and 10 months.
Room 1 with the play gym	44.96 square metres minus the play gym 25.38 square metres	2 years to 2 years and 10 months.
Room 2 with fixed houses / ball pool	48.196 square metres minus the fixed playhouses wooden structures 24.47 square metres	2 years to 2 years and 10 months.
<b>Unit 11</b>	79.69 square metres	2 years and 8 months to 6 years.
<b>Unit 12</b>	36.05 square metres	6 months to 2 years.
<b>Unit 13</b>	44.49 square metres	6 months to 2 years.
<b>Unit 14a</b>	63.76 square metres not including kitchen area	2 years 8 months to 6 years.

The minimum space requirements for full day care service or part-time day care service is indicated in the table below.

Age range	Clear Floor Space
0 -1 year	3.5 square metres
1 - 2 years	2.8. square metres
2 - 3 years	2.35 square metres
3 - 6 years	2.3 square metres

Where children of different ages are cared for in one room, the space requirement is calculated based on each child's age and their length of stay in the service.

A minimum of 1.81 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the Early Childhood Care and Education / sessional service. A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are no more than 22 children are in a room in the service at any one time.