

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015DL072

**Name of Service** Little Smarties CLG

**Address of Service:** Station Street, Pettigo, Co. Donegal, F94TRC9

**Email Address:** littlesmarties@live.ie

**Name of Registered Provider:** Claire Colton

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed change:** Increase number of children that can be accommodated from 20 to 31 by adding additional room.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 31

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Increase number of children that can be accommodated from 20 to 31 by adding additional room.

**Registered change:** Change in Number of Children from 20 to 31 Children

**Date of Inspection:** 1 6 0 4 2 0 2 5

**Inspection undertaken by:** L McGlynn

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F92 TD92

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### Rationale for Inspection:

**Proposed Change of Circumstance**

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	<b>Registered Sessional Service for 31 Children</b>
<b>Date of Registration</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>

### 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 Smarties CLG is a non-profit pre-school service located in the border village of Pettigo in County Donegal. The service is registered to provide a sessional pre-school service, Monday to Friday for children aged 2 to 6 years. The service is also registered to provide school age care.
<b>Premises</b>	The service operates from one bright and spacious care room. A second room, previously used for afterschool children will now be used to provide an additional session to which this application pertains. There is also a kitchen area, a staffroom, sanitary accommodation and an office. Children have access to an outdoor area on the premises; this outdoor play-area can be accessed directly from each of the care rooms.
<b>Staffing</b>	The registered provider does not work in the service on a daily basis. There is a named person in charge and a deputy in their absence. The services propose to employ five staff members to work directly with the proposed 31 children in attendance on a daily basis.
<b>Methodology</b>	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.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) (a) There is a named staff member in charge of the daily operation of the service and named persons who can deputise in their event of 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 requirements of this regulation have been met.

(1) The service proposes to accommodate a maximum of 31 children ranging in age from 2 to 6 years with five staff members employed. The person in charge confirmed their knowledge of the required adult child ratios and their adherence to same dependant on the numbers of children enrolled to attend each day.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

**Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play**

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Adequate and suitable indoor play facilities were in place for the number and age range of children proposed to be catered for. There were two large playrooms within the service both of which presented as bright and visually appealing spaces. There was an orderly arrangement of play equipment and materials set into clearly defined areas of interest within both rooms. These included arts and crafts, construction, small world toys, dressing up props, play kitchen areas, library, messy play tables, relaxing area, problem solving and wide range of manipulate play resources. Open low level shelving units enabled all items to be readily accessible to the children while suitable sized tables and chairs were available for tabletop activities.

(1)(b)

Adequate and suitable rest facilities were available. The rooms contained areas with comfortable seating for children to relax during the day.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(2) (b)

A safe and suitable outdoor play area was provided on the premises. The outdoor area, directly accessible from the care rooms was equipped with a range of play items suitable to the age of the children. A sheltered area which could be used for playing in all weathers contained a sand pit, digging area, mud kitchen and painting easels. A larger area contained a climb and slide unit, musical instruments and ample space for children to engage in gross motor physical play.

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

Children will continue to bring their lunch from home and there is a healthy eating policy in place for parents to adhere to. There is a designated kitchen where perishable food items can be refrigerated.

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

- The main entrance door had a lock system preventing unauthorised access or the unsupervised exit of a child.
- The outdoor play area was secured with surround fencing and a single exit gate.
- The emergency evacuation route from the pre-school rooms was easily identifiable by emergency exit signage. All designated emergency exits were observed to be clear and unobstructed.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at the wash hand basins in the service’s sanitary accommodation.
- All toys and play resources were noted to be clean, in good repair and were appropriate for children’s use.
- There were no electrical hazards observed.
- Window cord blinds were secured and there were restrictors on low level windows leading to unsecured areas.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available throughout the service and the main waste storage bins were in a secure area away from the children’s play areas.
- Cleaning products were in an area inaccessible to children.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 25 – First Aid

- (1) *A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—*
- (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) There were four staff members with certification in first aid for children.
- (2) (a) (b) A first aid box was positioned on a high-level bracket in the playroom. The box contained all of the quantities and contents as recommended under current national guidance.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There was a mechanism in place for recording fire drills.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was available with both having been serviced/tested in February 2025.

(4) The procedure to follow on the event of an emergency evacuation was on display in the care room.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Requirement met:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. 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:**

- (a) On superficial visual inspection, the building appeared of sound and stable structure with no visible defects. The person in charge confirmed that they had no concerns about the structure or stability of the building.
- (b) The main entrance door was secured with a keypad lock mechanism. The exit doors in the building and exit gate from the outdoor play area were secured in a manner which prevented children from exiting unsupervised or unauthorised adults from entering.
- (c) Adequate lighting was provided. Natural lighting consisted of large windows, glass panelled emergency exit door and glass panel in the entrance door in the playroom. Artificial lights consisted of ceiling lights encased in protective covers. An adequate source of heating was provided in the playroom and sanitary accommodation via an underfloor geothermal heat pump. The air temperature was within the recommended 18 -22°C range.
- (d) The premises presented as clean and subject to routine maintenance work as required.
- (e) The sanitary facilities in the service were adequately equipped with wash hand basins and toilets for the number of adults and children that will be in attendance.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.*

*(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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirements for this regulation have been met.

- (1) Adequate clear floor space was provided in the pre-school rooms for the work, play and movement of the 31 children that they are proposed to accommodate.
- (3) There was no change to the layout of room one therefore it was not measured on this inspection. Previous inspection records evidenced a clear floor space available to accommodate up to 20 children. The second room measured 52.92m<sup>2</sup> of clear floor space which was adequate to cater for the proposed number of 11 children.