

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2015DR008

Name of Service Discoveries Creche & Montessori

Address of Service: Olcovar, Shankill, Dublin 18, D18 W2X2

Email Address: shankill@discoveries.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Liz Mahon and Lena O’Sullivan

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:	The registered providers are proposing to increase the number of children to be accommodated from 47 to 54
Proposed Number of Children:	54
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	54
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 47 to 54.

Date of Inspection:	2	5	0	4	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: O. Quill
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 54 Children
Date of Registration	28 th May 2024

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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	Discoveries Creche & Montessori is a private childcare facility and is one of three services owned and operated by the registered providers. The service is registered to provide full and part-time day care and education for pre-school children aged from 0-6 years. It operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 07:30 -18:00.
Premises	The early years service is located at ground floor level and operates from a purpose-built premises within an apartment complex in an urban residential area in Shankill County Dublin. There are three care rooms available, a catering kitchen, office and staff room. A separate sleep room is provided for the babies. An outdoor play area is available for the children to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	Presently twenty-two staff are employed to work in the service.
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 administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, 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.

(1)(a) The registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.

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)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There are an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service at present.

(8)(b) Not applicable as this is not a childminding service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a sessional service that operates single handedly.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service comprises of three care rooms. The registered provider proposes to accommodate the additional pre-school children within the existing floor space. The rooms are bright and spacious and laid out to cater for the age range of children that will be attending in each room.

(1)(b) There is a separate cot room provided for children attending the baby room with five standard cots available to accommodate the sleep needs of children under two years of age. Additional cots are available and set up in the care rooms at sleep time for children under 2 years. Low level sleep beds are provided for children over two years of age and suitable rest areas are provided in the pre-school rooms.

(2)(b) A suitable and safe outdoor space was available and the area was secure. There were no hazards identified in the outdoor area on inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



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.

There are facilities available for the provision of adequate food and drink for children.

The service has employed a cook to prepare all snacks and a hot meal. A three weekly menu plan was available and displayed.

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.

- Entry to the service was secured to prevent unauthorised access and to ensure that a child does not leave the service unsupervised. The outdoor space is secure.
- There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in the sanitary areas.
- The gas-fired radiators were thermostatically controlled to ensure that the temperature did not exceed the safe surface temperature of 50°C.
- Thermostatically controlled running water heated to 32.2°C was available in the wash hand basin in the sanitary accommodation in the service.
- Cleaning agents and medication was stored out of children’s reach.
- Fire exits are clearly indicated and are not obstructed.
- The kitchen was inaccessible.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) Staff trained in first aid for children were immediately available to children attending the pre-school. Evidence was available to demonstrate three staff will complete the First aid Responder training by the 11 May 2024.

(a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available. It was clearly identifiable and readily accessible.

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.

(1)(a) A written record of monthly fire drills was available. The last recorded fire drill was the 5 March 2024.

(b) There was a maintenance record for firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms dated as having been serviced in February 2024 and November 2023.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed and the fire assembly point was identified.

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.

Evidence of insurance cover for sixty children was available. The insurance cover was dated 28/03/2024 – 27/03/2025.

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) On visible inspection the premises' structure appeared to be in good condition, both internally and externally.
- (b) The premises was safe and secure, with locked doors. Access to the premises was via a bell and intercom system.
- (c) The premises was adequately lit by means of natural lighting through both standard windows and supplemented by artificial ceiling fluorescent lighting. The premises was heated by means of a gas fired heating system.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>Ventilation was provided by means of open-able windows, wall vents whilst a mechanical ventilation system was operated in the sanitary accommodation. The registered providers had evidence to confirm they have engaged a ventilation company to source and improve ventilation in the sanitary areas.</p> <p>(d) The premises was found in a clean condition and in good repair.</p> <p>(e) Suitable and adequate sanitary accommodation was provided in the service.</p> <p>There are four toilets and four wash hand basins designated for children’s use. There are three nappy changing units with wash hand basins also available. Two toilets and two wash hand basins have been provided for staff use.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work play and movement of children attending the pre-school and the proposed number of extra children attending on a full day care (FDC) basis as demonstrated.

Room	Baby room	Playgroup	Montessori
Clear floor space	29.3sqm	47.6 sqm	46.2 sqm
Proposed age range/ Regulation age range /clear floor space	0 – 1 years (3.5 sqm)	1– 2 years 2– 3 years (2.35 sqm)	2.8- 3years (1.81 sqm during ECCE session) 3-4 years (2.3 sqm outside ECCE hours)

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

The above table illustrates that the service has sufficient clear floor space to accommodate the number of proposed additional children. The registered provider proposes to accommodate 54 pre-school children attending the service on a FDC basis within the existing space available.