

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2015DS150

Name of Service St Marks Preschool

Address of Service: St Marks House, Cookstown Lane, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Email Address: Info@stmarksyouthclub.ie

Name of Registered Provider: James Morrisey

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	Adding a part time service
Proposed Number of Children:	57 children (no change to register) with 18 attending on a part time basis.
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	14 children can only be accommodated in the proposed care room.
Registered change:	Change in Service Type from Sessional to Part Time Number of children to be accommodated 57 (Max 14 Part Time)

Date of Inspection: 0 3 0 7 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: Fiona Carty
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Floor 7, Brunel Building,
Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time / Sessional Service for 57 Children (Max 14 Part Time)
Date of Registration	7 th September 2023

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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	St Marks Preschool is a sessional preschool service currently providing early childhood education for children aged 2 – 6 years from 10.00am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. The service currently accommodates a maximum number of 57 children on a sessional basis and is proposing to add an additional part time service accommodating a maximum of 18 children.
Premises	The service currently operates from 4 care rooms in St Marks House in Tallaght, Dublin24. The children will be accommodated in an existing room which also offers sessional care. An outdoor play area is located to the front of the premises.
Staffing	The service employs nine staff members including a manager. The registered provider does not work directly with the children.
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>
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge who was 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 designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) An adequate number of adults will work directly in the pre-school service as it is proposed to care for a maximum of 18 pre-school children in the proposed additional part time service. Two adults will work directly with these children and the manager will be always present in the service.

(8)(b) and (c) Not applicable

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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.*
- (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:

- (1)(a)
There are four care rooms in use in the service, one of which will be used for part time care.
The care room proposed for part time care was equipped with toys and play equipment on open low-level shelving in areas of interest which included a home area and a cosy corner. Low level tables and chairs were provided in the care room for pre-school children to engage in tabletop activities. A wide variety of materials were available including small world play, art activities, puzzles and construction.
- (b) The care room requiring the change had a rest area available. A matted area with cushions was available for children to rest and opt out of activities. The service also has a number of stackable beds available should a child require sleep during the day.
- (2)(b)
A fenced outdoor play area to the front of the building was available for the children which was secured with a gate. The surface area was covered with natural grass and there were a number of play equipment available to the children including swings, slides, playhouse and a mud kitchen.
There was a high fenced in area that contained a small pond where ducks were housed, this area was not accessible to the children as the entrance to this area was only accessed through a locked gate.

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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 service proposes that the parents of the children will provide the morning snack. The service will provide a hot meal which is supplied by an external catering company and re-generated on site. All perishable food will be stored in a refrigerator below 5° Celsius. Drinking water and additional snacks will also be available to the children if required.

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 service is located in St Marks House which contains 4 care rooms. Access to all care rooms was through a locked door in the front of the building. It was advised that children will be accepted into the service directly from this entrance to the building which must be opened from the inside. It was also noted that pre-school children will be collected from this door after sessional and part time hours by parents/guardians.

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 not met: There was no person available to the children who held a valid First Aid Responder certificate. It is acknowledged that all staff held Paediatric First Aid certificates.

Response from Provider: I have booked two staff members onto a FAR course which will take place on the 28th, 29th and 30th August 2023

Summary Comment: The course has been completed and all relevant certificates were received by the inspector.

The requirements of Regulation 25 have been met.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Requirement met:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(a) A recording system was available to ensure that a record could be maintained of monthly fire drills as conducted.</p> <p>(b) A recording system was available which confirmed the fire extinguishers located in various locations throughout the building were serviced on the 25th November 2022 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on the 24th November 2022.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was provided for the pre-school service.</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:	<p>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.</p>
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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:	<p>(a) The service is located in a purposely adapted building in Tallaght, Dublin 24. Windows in the care rooms appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and</p>
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were both positioned and opened above child height. The person in charge confirmed that there are no structural defects with the premises.

(b) The exit from the care rooms to outside was secured and opened only from the inside. There was a high-level locking system in place. The outdoor area was secured with gates and fencing.

(c) Openable windows are provided in all the care rooms for both natural ventilation and natural day light. The fluorescent light fittings in rooms are covered with shatterproof diffusers.

(d) The floor coverings and painted walls and ceilings were observed to be clean and well maintained on the day of inspection. Cleaning equipment and chemicals are located in a cupboard inaccessible to the children.

(e) There is one nappy changing facility in the service. There are three toilets and four wash hand basins located outside the preschool rooms on the first floor. There are an additional three toilets and two wash hand basins on the ground floor. Adults have access to sanitary accommodation on the first floor. Soap dispensers and disposable paper towels were provided in the sanitary accommodation. Natural ventilation in the form of openable windows were in use in all sanitary accommodation throughout the service.
The service is connected to the public water supply and public sewage system.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
 - (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

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Requirement met:	<p>(2) Not applicable.</p> <p>(4)(a) Not applicable.</p> <p>(b) Not applicable.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(1) An area of 33 sqm is available in the play room for a maximum of 14 pre-school children in daily attendance on a part time basis or 18 on a sessional basis.</p> <p>(3) The area of the playroom met the requirement for clear floor space for a maximum of 14 pre-school children in daily attendance on a part time basis in a single playroom.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>On the day of inspection, the person in charge was agreeable to the actual number of children the care room could accommodate.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The proposed change of circumstances for 18 children to attend room 3 on a part time basis could not be accommodated as per space requirements 14 children could be accommodated.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that there are a further three care rooms in the service where the additional four children could be accommodated if required.</p>