

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015DS183

Name of Service Lily Pad Creche & Montessori

Address of Service: 16 Main Street, Rathfarnham Village, Dublin 14, D14 F5X8

Email Address: Info@lilypad.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Sharon Browne

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

Proposed change: Change in number of children from 50 to 90 children, through the addition of care rooms.
Change in Number of Staff from 12 to 19 staff

Proposed Number of Children: 90

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in Number of Children from 50 to 76
Change in Number of Staff from 12 to 19 staff.

Registered change: Change in Number of Children from 50 to 76.
Change in Number of Staff from 12 to 19 staff.

Date of Inspection: 1 9 0 9 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: E. Finnegan Hayes & E. Griffin

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, 7th Floor, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Ful Day Care Service for 76 children
Date of Registration	11th October 2024

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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	Lily Pad Creche & Montessori is a full-day care service located in a residential area in Dublin 14. The registered provider proposes to provide care and education to 90 children aged 0-6 years daily, Monday to Friday from 7:30am-6pm.
Premises	The proposed service is comprised of two adjoining residential units which have been converted for use as an early years' service. The proposed service will have eight care rooms; four located in number 16 and four located in number 17 both of which contain the necessary sanitary facilities. Number 16 also houses a kitchen, a designated cot room which will hold sixteen cots is accessible from number 16 in a separate cabin building known as Lily lodge to the side of the premises. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	The registered provider proposes to employ 19 staff members to work in the service and also works in the service herself.
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>

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Additional information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the day of inspection under Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, Safety and Welfare of the child in relation to an observed breach of condition 4 of the services fire safety certificate which states “Sleeping children shall only be accommodated on the ground floor and in rooms that are not inner rooms”. A response which adequately addressed the risk was received from the registered provider. Please see Regulation 23 for further details. 2. A referral to the Fire officer was made on 24th September 2024 in relation to the above breach.
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, service manager who attended the feedback meeting, 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:

(1) (a) The service has a designated person in charge and three named persons to deputise as 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.

Requirement met:

(1) The registered provider proposes to employ 19 staff to work directly with the children in 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, and

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

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises

Requirement met:

(1)(a)

The toys and materials available were assessed and deemed adequate to support the learning and development of the children. For example.

- All care rooms were equipped with a range of toys and equipment suitable for children in the proposed age group. The toys were grouped thematically into defined interest areas and accessible to the children on low level shelving.
- Mounted activity walls were available in the care rooms providing a range of activities.
- Child sized tables and chairs were provided for the children to engage in tabletop activities and eat meals.
- Highchairs with suitable restraints are available for younger children.
- Furniture and equipment were observed to be well maintained durable and easy to clean.
- A large outdoor play area is available on the premises providing a range of play experiences including sand, ride on toys, a playhouse, slides and seesaws.

(b)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cozy areas were well equipped with soft furnishings and provided a comfortable place for the children to rest or to take a break from activities during the day. • A number of seating areas are provided in the outdoor area. • Sixteen cots will be available in the cot room this is adequate for the proposed number of children aged under 2 years who require sleep during the day. • An adequate number of low-level beds and sleep mats are available for children aged over 2 years who require sleep during the day. • Individual bedlinen will be available for children who require sleep during the day. <p>(3) (a) An adequately secured outdoor areas are available within the grounds of the service.</p>																				
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>1. Adequate space is not available on the ground floor of number 17 to cater to the proposed number of 28 children aged under 3 years old who may require sleep during the day. The registered provider proposes the following age groups for number 17:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="555 1126 1493 1456"> <thead> <tr> <th>Room</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Age group</th> <th>Number of children proposed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Room 1/2</td> <td>Ground floor -Front</td> <td>2-2.5 years</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Room 3</td> <td>Ground floor- Rear</td> <td>2.5-3 years</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Room 5/6</td> <td>First floor - Front</td> <td>3-6 years</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Room 7/8</td> <td>First floor- Rear</td> <td>2-2.5 years</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* for room measurements please see Regulation 30.</p> <p>*it is acknowledged that some children under 3 years old may not require a daytime nap and also that some children over 3 years old may require a daytime nap. Adequate space must be available to cater to the individual sleep needs of the children.</p> <p>*On the day of inspection nine children were observed sleeping on the first floor in number 16.</p>	Room	Location	Age group	Number of children proposed	Room 1/2	Ground floor -Front	2-2.5 years	10	Room 3	Ground floor- Rear	2.5-3 years	8	Room 5/6	First floor - Front	3-6 years	10	Room 7/8	First floor- Rear	2-2.5 years	10
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Response from Provider:	Procedures have been drafted outlining the capacity for sleep on the ground floor of both buildings. It is important to note that the creche is in no doubt about fire safety regulation and that it stipulates that first floors are not to be utilised to accommodate sleeping children. This was an error in communication as when the Fire cert was issued, it was thought that it didn't come into effect until number 17 was given permission to open. Equally, we are clear that there is sufficient capacity, in line with relevant child ratios, to accommodate sleeping requirements.
Summary Comment:	The requirements of Regulation 20 have been met.

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service has a healthy eating policy in place. • The service will provide two meals and two snacks to the children each day. Breakfast and a hot meal will be provided by the service and two snacks will be provided by the parents. • The registered provider advised that alternative meals will be available as needed. • Refrigerators are available to store any perishable items which are sent from home. • Water will be available to the children in individually labelled beakers.
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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Requirement met:	<p>The registered provider has put the following measures in place to ensure the safety of the children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toys and equipment are well maintained and free from hazards. • Cleaning products were stored out of reach of children. • Radiator covers are in place. • A system for recording daily cleaning is in place. • Flexes are appropriately secured out of reach of the children. • Adequate space is available in the cot room to place cots a minimum of 50cm apart. • A system is in place to ensure linens are laundered on a set schedule and as needed. • The outdoor area is adequately secured with high walls and bolt locks on gates. • The fire assembly point is clearly labelled in the outdoor area.
Requirement not met:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On the day of inspection nine children were observed sleeping on the first floor of number 16: eight children in the pre montessori room and one child in the montessori room. Staff advised that a further two children had just woken up and moved to another room. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider as this is a breach of the services Fire Safety certificate. 2. Window restrictors were available but not in use on the windows of the pre montessori room located on the first floor in number 16. 3. Windows in room 1/2 and room 5/6 in number 17 could not be opened on the day of inspection but have since been opened. However adequate safety measures are required to prevent children accessing the window and sustaining injuries from falls.

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	4. A low-level gate which forms part of the evacuation route between number 17 and the outdoor area is catching on the ground making it difficult to fully open.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional sleep space has been provided in the cot room “Lily Lodge”. The baby room will be used as a sleep area for the children from upstairs care rooms in number 16. The registered provider has confirmed that no children will sleep on the first floor of the service going forward. 2. The loose Window restrictors have been fixed by adding additional screws. 3. Safety locks have been added to the windows in question and open in compliance with relevant fire safety regulation. 4. The low-level gate has been adjusted and now swings freely.
Summary Comment:	The requirements of Regulation 23 have been met.

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:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The registered provider confirmed that two staff trained in First Aid Response (FAR) will be available to the children in the service at all times during the opening hours. FAR certificates for two staff members which will expire in October 2025 were provided for review. (2) (a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is available, stored out of reach of the children but immediately available if required.
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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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Requirement met:

- (1) (a) A record of fire drills is maintained. Fire drills are conducted monthly.
- (b) A record detailing the servicing of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms showed the most recent service of both took place in January 2024.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire emergency are displayed throughout the service.

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.

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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:

- (a)
 - On visual inspection, the care room appeared to be of stable structure.
 - Water is provided by the public mains.
 - Sewage is removed from the building via the public sewage system.
- (b)
 - The service entrance is secured, and access is managed by staff.
 - The outdoor area is secure with high walls and gates secured with bolt locks.
- (c)
 - Natural light was available in both care rooms, this is supplemented by artificial light.
 - Shatterproof covers are fitted on all light fixtures.
 - Mechanical vents are present in the sanitary areas.
 - An ambient temperature is maintained in the care rooms.
- (d)
 - The service was adequately rodent proofed.
- (e)
 - Sanitary facilities are available both buildings.
 - In number 16:
 - Three children’s toilets are available.
 - Five sinks are available in the children’s sanitary areas.
 - Two nappy changing units are available.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One adult toilet and sink are available in the adult sanitary facilities. ▪ An additional toilet and sink are also available to the rear of number 16 accessible from the external corridor between lily lodge and the main building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In number 17: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two children’s toilets are available. ▪ Three sinks are available in the children’s sanitary areas. ▪ Two adult toilets and two sinks are available in the adult sanitary facilities.
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(c)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ventilation did not appear to be working although it could be heard and appeared to be on, and a strong malodor was present in the nappy changing facility on the ground floor in number 16. <p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The sanitary facility on the ground floor of number 16 was unfinished and required cleaning. 3. A cupboard was placed on the floor in room 5 and 6 of number 17 and had not yet been secured to the wall. 4. The woodwork around the sash windows in room 1 and 5 requires repainting as appears to have been damaged during the opening of the windows following the inspection.
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ventilation system was upgraded by adding additional suction capacity. 2. The bathroom is now completed. 3. The cupboard has been mounted onto the wall. 4. The windows have been opened, painted and repaired.
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>The requirements of Regulation 29 have been met.</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.
- (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.

Requirement met:

Room name	Age group	Service provision	Room size
Number 16 Tadpoles	1-2 years	Full day care	25.9m ²
Number 16 Wobbler room	2-3 years	Full day care	19.2 m ²
Number 16 Montessori room	3-6 years	Full day care	29.8 m ²
Number 16 Pre-Montessori room	2-3 years	Full day care	23 m ²
Number 17 Room 1/2	2-2.5 years	Full day care	26 m ²
Number 17 Room 3	2.5-3 years	Full day care	19 m ²
Number 17 Room 5/6	3-6 years	Full day care	31 m ²
Number 17 Room 7/8	2-2.5 years	Full day care	25 m ²

(1)(2) The seven care rooms are sized as follows;

*Fire safety Certificate restrict the number of children attending the first floor to 20 children in each building.

Taking the fire safety conditions into consideration there is sufficient space available for the work, play and movement for 76 children to attend on a full day care basis.

*See Regulation 20 regarding sleep requirements.