

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015DY025

Name of Service: Best Start Creche & Afterschool

Address of Service: 26 Killester Park, Killester, Dublin 5, D05FH50

Email Address: beststartnow@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Lina Ivanovaite

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

Proposed change to service: Morning sessional service for 11 children

Proposed Number of Children: 40

Registered Change: Increase of Children from 30-40
Additional Session
Hours of Add Session 9-12.30

Date of Inspection: 0 8 0 9 2 0 2 1

Inspection undertaken by: Ms M Foley

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate,
Dublin North East,
2nd Floor, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A,
Blanchardstown Corporate Park,
Dublin 15.

| Rationale for Inspection: | |
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| Proposed Change of Circumstance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application for an additional sessional service in the Garden Room for eleven children |

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

Registration Status: Registered full day care sessional service for 40 children

Date of Registration 15/10/2021

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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).

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| Description of Service | <p>The service is in a single-story building beside the registered providers home in a residential area of Killester. Access to all childcare rooms is through the Front childcare room.</p> <p>The service is registered to provide sessional and full day care to children aged from 1 to 6 years old. The Garden Room currently accommodates school aged children from 1pm to 6 pm daily.</p> <p>The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 8.30am to 11.30am. The service proposes to offer an additional morning sessional service from 09:00-12:30pm in the Garden Room.</p> |
| Premises | <p>There are a total of four care rooms. Three care rooms are attached to the premises and the Garden Room is a separate structure located beside the outdoor play area. The rooms are as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Front Room provides full day care and ECCE childcare to children aged from 3 to five years old. • The Middle Room provides full day care and sessional childcare to children aged from 2 to 3 years old. • The Back Room provides full day care to children aged from 1 to 2 years old. • The Garden Room caters for school aged children from 1pm to 6 pm daily. <p>The service has a kitchen and a small office area. The outdoor area is at the rear of the premises.</p> |
| Staffing | <p>On the day of inspection there were four staff providing care and education to twenty-four children. The registered provider was available to provide additional care and facilitate the inspection process.</p> |
| Methodology | <p>The inspection was an announced Focused 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 three themes: Governance, 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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving registration.</p> |
| Acknowledgements | <p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p> |

Part III - Management and Staff

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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 has been met.

The registered provider had a designated person-in-charge and a named person who can deputise as required. The person-in-charge commenced work at the service on the day of inspection.

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:

(1)

The registered provider has a named staff member ready to provide care and education to the proposed eleven children due to attend an additional ECCE sessional service in the Garden Room.

On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of staff working with the children.

- The Front Room: there were seven children aged 3 to 5 years old and one staff member.
- The Middle Room: there were twelve children aged 2 to 3 years old and two staff members.
- The Back Room: there were 5 children aged 1 to 2 years old and one staff member.
- The Garden room is currently used by school aged children from 1 pm daily.

(8)(a) &(b) Not applicable as the service is not a single-handed 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.*
- (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.*
- (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 or*
 - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) Each care room was furnished with toys and equipment to meet the care needs of the children assigned to that care room. In each room there were open shelving with toys and equipment clearly labelled and within easy reach of the children. The Garden room was equipped with age-appropriate wooden puzzles, blocks, bricks books, jigsaws and a wide variety of books. Areas of interest included a construction area, an art and crafts area and a home area. Low level tables and chairs to meet the needs of eleven children were in place.

(b) There were adequate and suitable rest and relaxation areas in the three care rooms and the new Garden Room.

The service is not registered to provide on overnight childcare service.

(2)(b) Not applicable as the service has not moved premises on or after 30 June 2016.

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| | <p>(3)(a) A suitable safe and secure outdoor space to which the children attending the service is available at the rear of the premises. Areas of interest included a large covered area with a climbing wall, ride on toys, soft balls and small trucks and cars. Another area was equipped with a kitchen, a wooden tepee structure and a wooden planter with flowers and shrubs. The outdoor area was covered with soft impact materials and there were wooden steps up to the care rooms. A picnic bench and seating was available to support tabletop activities and rest and relaxation in the outdoor area.</p> <p>(b) Not applicable as there are secure outdoor spaces on the premises.</p> <p>(4) & (5) Not applicable as the service is registered to provider full day care, part-time and sessional childcare.</p> |
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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.

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| Requirement Met: | <p>The requirement has been partially met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The registered provider stated that the service will prepare and provide all meals for the children. • Extra nutritious food and snacks will be available if needed. • Drinking water will be freely available. • A fridge was available to store extra food and milk for the children. • A diced fruit platter with yogurt and crackers was served at snack time. |
| Requirement not met: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The newly refurbished kitchen was not ready for food preparation on the day of inspection. The registered provider stated that for the last few days, meals were being prepared in the registered provider's home. 2. The insect screen was available but not installed on the kitchen window. |
| Response from Registered Provider: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The new fully equipped kitchen is complete and operating. 2. The insect screen has been installed. <p>Photographic evidence of the above was submitted by the Registered Provider.</p> |
| Summary Comment: | The requirement for Regulation 22 – Food and Drink has been met. |

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 partially met.

The proposal is to increase the number of children by a further 11 children attending an ECCE morning sessional service in the Garden Room.

- The entrance and exit door of the service is in the Front room. It was safe and secure to prevent unauthorised entrance and unsupervised exit from the pre-school.
- The surface of the walls, floors, doors and shelving in all rooms were clean and maintained.
- Cleaning schedules were in place and included a daily, weekly and monthly plan.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water was available at all wash-hand basins to support hand hygiene on arrival and as needed throughout the day
- Paper towels, liquid soap and pedal operated bins were in place at wash-hand basins in sanitary areas and in the care room.
- Cleaning agents and medicines were stored out of reach of children in locked presses or on high shelves.
- An isolation area has been identified should a child or staff member feel unwell. A Covid-19 box with personal protective supplies such as disposable masks, single use gloves & hand sanitizer were available.
- Wall mounted hand sanitiser units were positioned outside rooms and on the walls in the lobby area to facilitate regular hand hygiene.
- Staff were familiar with the possible signs and symptoms of Covid-19 and the steps to be taken in the event of a suspected case.
- Staff were aware of the need to notify Tusla of any incident of Covid 19 arising at the service.

Requirement not met:

General Safety:

1. There were no sanitary or hand washing facilities available in the Garden room. It is proposed that 11 preschool children will be cared for in this room with 1 staff member. A second staff member will be required to accompany children to the sanitary accommodation located in the main premises.
2. In the Middle Room, low level beds used at sleep time were stored standing up against the wall near the sink. The risk of injury was possible should the beds fall over.

Infection control:

3. Mops and mop buckets were stored in the toilet cubicles.

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| | <p>4. The staff toilet was used to store large amounts of additional supplies of paper rolls, nappies, and cleaning supplies. It was not possible to open the high window in the area as items were stored on the windowsill.</p> |
| Response from Registered Provider: | <p>General Safety</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The garden room has an area for the manager to work, and it is planned to have the manager there in order to accompany the children to the sanitary area in the ECCE operational hours. 2. A bar has been installed to prevent the risk of injury. 3. An area outside was created for mops and buckets to be stored. <p>Infection Control</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The area is now clear of additional supplies and the windows are opened for ventilation. <p>Photographic evidence was submitted to demonstrate the above.</p> |
| Summary Comment: | The requirements have been met and addressed for Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child. |

Part VI – Safety

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| Regulation 25 – First Aid | |
| <p>(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.</p> <p>(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—</p> <p>(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and</p> <p>(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times</p> | |
| Requirement met: | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The requirement has been met as demonstrated by first aid certificates available for inspection. The registered provider is aware of the need to have a person always trained in first aid for children immediately available.</p> <p>(2) (a) & (b) First aid boxes were easily accessible and available in the childcare rooms. They are stored out of reach of the children.</p> |

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) Records of monthly fire drills completed up to August 2021 were available for inspection.

(b) Maintenance certificates for the firefighting equipment were available and dated 05/03/2021.

Maintenance certificates for the smoke detection system were available and dated September 2021.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display.

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 insurance policy had an expiry date of 28/02/2022 and provided cover for up to 40 children. On the day of inspection there were twenty-four children in attendance. The registered provider stated that a maximum of 11 children were enrolled and ready to attend the additional sessional service in the garden room when their registration is granted.

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 partially met.

(a) On visual checks; the premises appear to be of sound and stable structure. The four care rooms were clean and maintained.

(b) The entrance door to the service was managed and monitored by the staff member from the front room and the registered provider provided additional support as needed.

(c) The three childcare rooms attached to the registered provider’s home were adequately lit, heated, and ventilated. They were bright with natural light from the windows augmented by electric lighting when needed. The radiators were enclosed in wooden structures.

(d) The care rooms, sanitary area and corridors were clean and in good repair.

Requirement not met:

- (c)
1. The Garden Room does not have an openable window or a means of mechanical ventilation. The double doors open into the outdoor play area and if left open would pose a risk of injury to children playing outdoors.
 2. The Garden Room is heated by 2 free-standing plug in portable heaters. Due to their position at floor level and accessibility to the children the heat source poses a risk of a burn injury to children attending. The cables positioned at floor level were observed to pose a trip hazard.

(e)
 On the day of inspection there were twenty-four children in attendance of which twelve needed nappy care, a second nappy changing area was needed. The service is currently equipped with three toilets and three wash hand basins and one nappy changing bench for the children. A fourth toilet cubicle and one wash hand basin were assigned for staff needs.

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| <p>Response from Registered Provider:</p> | <p>(c)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new window has been installed in the garden room, and there are two openable windows to provide ventilation. 2. An air-conditioning unit has been installed, and the heaters have been removed. <p>(e) A second nappy changing area has been installed.</p> <p>The Registered Provider submitted photographic evidence to support the above actions.</p> |
| <p>Summary Comment:</p> | <p>The regulatory requirement for Regulation 29 Premises has been met.</p> |

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been partially met.

(1) & (2) The minimum clear floor space for a sessional service and for a full day care service available is outlined in table below.

| Room & age range | Clear floor space (sqm) | Full day Care | Sessional |
|--|-------------------------|--|-----------|
| Front room Age over 3 years | 20.72sqm | 9 | 11 |
| Middle room Age 2-3 years | 23.0sqm | 9 | 12 |
| Back room Age 1-2 years | 18.04sqm | 4 (clear floor space was divided by 4.2 sqm as the room also is the sleep area). | N/A |
| Garden room Age 2.5 to 5 years | 20.8 sqm | N/A from 1pm the room is assigned to school aged children | 11 |

(3) The service is registered to provide full day and sessional childcare. The maximum number of children that can be enrolled in each care room is outlined at (2) above.

A drop-in service is not offered as the service is not registered to provide such.

(4) (a) & (b) See details outlined at (2) above.

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| | (5) Not applicable as the service is registered to provide full day care and sessional services. |
| Requirement not met: | 1. In the Back Room, the clear floor space available for the movement of five children aged from 1 – 2 years old was inadequate. Five children are enrolled and five were in attendance on the day of inspection. A maximum of four children in this age range can be accommodated considering the room is used for the sleep needs and play needs of the children. The service does not have a designated sleep room or an area available to facilitate children who do not want to sleep at the services assigned rest time. |
| Response from Registered Provider: | 1. Five foldable cots will be used in the care room to facilitate sleep. A copy of proof of purchase of five foldable cots was submitted by the Registered Provider. |
| Summary Comment: | The regulatory requirement for Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play has been met, and it will be assessed on the next inspection. |