

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2015DY120												
<b>Name of Service</b>	Little Learners ABCD												
<b>Address of Service:</b>	40 Lower Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9												
<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:nessamcnamara@gmail.com">nessamcnamara@gmail.com</a>												
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Nessa McNamara												
<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Full Day Care</b></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><b>Part-Time</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><b>Sessional</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Drop-In</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><b>Childminding</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><b>Temporary</b></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
<b>Proposed change:</b>	Change in number of children accommodated from 165 to 187 catered for in a new room.												
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	187												
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	187												
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in number of children that can accommodated from 165 to 187												
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>6</td> <td>0</td> <td>7</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	0	6	0	7	2	0	2	3				
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E. Finnegan Hayes & M. Foley												
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors												
<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8												

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care Service for 187 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> August 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Little Learners ABCD is a private run full day care service which operates from 7:45am-6pm Monday to Friday. The service currently caters for 165 children aged 2 to 6 years. It is proposed to increase the capacity of the service to 187 as an additional room has been added to the service. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.
<b>Premises</b>	The service operates from a multi-purpose premises in the urban area of Drumcondra on the north side of Dublin city and has eight care rooms, an outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises.
<b>Staffing</b>	The registered provider works in the service and employs 30 staff to work in the early years' service including auxiliary staff.
<b>Methodology</b>	<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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 named person in charge and a named person 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 has employed 18 staff to work directly with the children to maintain the adult child ratio taking into account the age range, the number of children and the type of service the children are enrolled for. The service is registered to provide care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years old.

The proposed new care room Seomra Sasta will cater for 19 children attending on a full day care basis or 22 on a sessional basis.

### 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

(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 proposed new care room was assessed and the facilities to play indoors were deemed adequate. For example;

- Four low level tables and chairs were provided for the children to engage in tabletop activities and eat meals.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low shelving was used to display toys and equipment at a level accessible to the children.</li> <li>• The room was equipped with an adequate number of toys and equipment suitable to the age and stage of development of the proposed age group. These were grouped into areas of interest and included small world materials animals, small blocks, an art table, a book area with a soft mat and cushions and a selection of books and a play kitchen with supporting equipment.</li> </ul> <p>(b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A large soft mat and cushions provided a comfortable place for the children to rest during the day. This was large enough to accommodate children comfortably if they wished to take a break from activities.</li> <li>• Not applicable as the service does not provide overnight care.</li> </ul> <p>(3)(a) A large secure outdoor area is available at the rear of the building. This area is equipped with a variety of equipment. A sheltered area is available which can be used to provide shade from the sun or to allow outdoor play in inclement weather. A daily roster is available with each room allocated time in the area.</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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The service operates a healthy eating policy. The service provides breakfast, a fruit snack and dinner which is prepared onsite. Parents provide lunch for their children daily.</p> <p>The care room has a fridge to allow for refrigeration of perishable items contained in the lunches brought from home.</p> <p>A dinner menu is displayed in the hallway outside the care room.</p>
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# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toys and equipment in the care rooms were maintained in good condition.</li> <li>• The outdoor play area was secure, and well maintained.</li> <li>• Thermostatically controlled warm water was available at the wash-hand basins in the proposed new care room.</li> <li>• Cleaning schedules to be used in the care room were reviewed.</li> <li>• Cleaning spray was observed to be stored on a high shelf.</li> <li>• Waste was stored inaccessible to the children.</li> <li>• The kitchen was inaccessible to the children.</li> </ul>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two smoke alarms; one in the sanitary area within the care room and one in the care room were not connected and in working order. One was observed hanging from the ceiling and the other was not mounted in its holder on the ceiling.</li> <li>2. The external fire evacuation route was not clear, and a number of hazards were observed; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant pots were stored on the path on the evacuation route.</li> <li>• A wheelbarrow was stored protruding into the walkway.</li> <li>• Nettles were observed growing along the pathway.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Two fire extinguishers in the care room had not been adequately secured to prevent falling over.</li> <li>4. Dispensers were not available for toilet roll and handtowels.</li> <li>5. A window in the sanitary area which could be reached by the children was not secured with a restrictor and present a risk of injury.</li> </ol>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The smoke alarms have been reinstated.</li> <li>2. The fire evacuation route has been cleared.</li> <li>3. The fire fighting equipment has been secured outside the care room on instruction of the services fire safety provider.</li> <li>4. Dispenser have been mounted in the sanitary area.</li> </ol>

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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	5. The window is now secured with a safety latch.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirements 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	(1) The registered provider ensured a staff member trained in First Aid Response (FAR) will be available on the premises. Certification showed that a number of staff are currently trained in FAR.
	(2)(a)(b) An adequately stocked first aid box was available in the care room on a high shelf out of reach of the children but accessible to staff as needed.

### 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	(1)(a) A form to record fire drills was available for review. Fire drill records showed fire drills are completed monthly in the service.
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	(1)(b) The firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the room had not been added to the maintenance records.
	(4) A notice detailing the route to be followed in the event of an emergency was not displayed in the care room.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Response from Provider:</b>	(1)(b) The room is listed on the maintenance records for servicing of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms.  (4) A notice has been displayed in the care room.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirement has been met.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The service is currently insured to provide care and education for 230 children at one time.
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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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On visual inspection, the preschool premises appeared to be a stable structure.</li> <li>• Water is provided by the public mains.</li> <li>• Sewage is removed from the building via the public sewage system.</li> </ul> <p>(b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The care room door is fitted with a thumb lock on the inside. The room key was stored centrally in a clearly labelled key box which staff and management have access to. Access to the care room will be managed by staff.</li> </ul> <p>(c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large windows provided natural light to the proposed new care room. This is supplemented by artificial light in both the care room and sanitary area.</li> <li>• Electric heaters which are thermostatically controlled are fitted in the care room.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The room will be ventilated by opening windows. Windows were open on the day of inspection for ventilation purposes.</li> </ul> <p>(d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The care room was adequately cleaned and maintained.</li> <li>Cleaning schedules which will be used in the care room were reviewed.</li> <li>Evidence of rodent proofing was observed on site and documentation was reviewed in relation to same.</li> </ul> <p>(e)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A sanitary area within the care room was fitted with 2 toilet cubicles and 2 sinks, which is adequate for the number of children proposed.</li> <li>The service has adequate toilets and sinks within all care rooms in relation to the numbers of children in each room. A total of 17 toilets and 17 sinks will be available for use across the 9 care rooms.</li> </ul>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two saddle boards were not painted and as such did not have an easily wipeable surface.</li> <li>The step on the outside of the fire exit door was uneven and a piece of material was protruding from the concrete which posed a tripping risk.</li> </ol>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The saddle boards have been varnished.</li> <li>The step has been fixed and the material which was protruding secured.</li> </ol>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirement has been met.

# 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.*
- (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.*
- (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).*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>(1) &amp; (2) The new room; Seomra Sasta provides 43.91m<sup>2</sup> of clear floor space. This is adequate to meet the needs of 19 children aged 3-6 years attending on a full daycare basis or 22 on a sessional basis of the specified age group.</p> <p>(4)(a) &amp; (b) A minimum of 1.818 square meters of clear floor space is available for up to 22 children attending the service on a sessional basis.</p>
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