

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015DY120

**Name of Service** Little Learners ABCD

**Address of Service:** 40 Lower Drumcondra Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

**Email Address:** nessamcnamara@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Nessa McNamara

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

**Proposed change:** Change in Number of Children Accommodated from 187 to 209 through the addition of a new care room.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 209 Children

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Change in Number of Children that can be accommodated from 187 to 209 Children

**Registered change:** Change in Number of Children that can be accommodated from 187 to 209 Children

**Date of Inspection:** 1 7 0 7 2 0 2 4

**Inspection undertaken by:** E Hosford

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate,  
Child and Family Agency,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A,  
Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.

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

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	<b>Registered Full Day, Part-Time &amp; Sessional for 209 Children</b>
<b>Date of Registration</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> August 2024</b>

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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 187 children aged 2 to 6 years. It is proposed to increase the capacity of the service to 209 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 nine 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 proposes to employ three staff members to work directly with the children in the new care room on a sessional and part time basis.
<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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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 registered provider is the named person-in-charge. The registered provider has a designated named person who can 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 proposed to employ three 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 proposed new care room Spraoi will cater for 22 children attending on a part time and 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, 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 or

**Requirement met:**

(1)(a) There are adequate and suitable facilities available to meet the needs of 22 children enrolled to attend the proposed new care room on the day of inspection.

The room is equipped with the required number of low-level tables and chairs.

Low accessible shelving is maintained and will allow the children easy access to toys and equipment which were all labelled and visible.

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	<p>The room is equipped with suitable toys and equipment to meet the needs of the proposed number of children.</p> <p>(b) There is a suitable rest and relaxation area available in the proposed care room. These areas are clean and of a size suitable to the number of children proposed. The service is not registered for and does not provide an overnight pre-school service.</p> <p>(3) The outdoor play area is located at the rear of the premises. A daily roster is available with each room allocated time in the area. The area is secure with high block walls and high fencing around the area. A large outdoor covered area supports access to outdoor play every day.</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.*

#### Requirement met:

A healthy eating policy is in place and will be shared with parents. Parents will provide a lunch for their children daily. The care room has a fridge to allow for refrigeration of perishable items contained in the lunches brought from home. Water will be available at mealtimes throughout the session.

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## 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.*

#### Requirement met:

The toys, equipment, furniture, and flooring are well maintained and in good repair in the proposed care room.

The tables and chairs are of a suitable size.

The outdoor play area is secure, and the artificial surface is maintained. The toys and equipment in the area are in good repair.

Pathways to the rooms are clear of obstructions and allowed easy access to the outdoor play area and to the fire assembly points.

Thermostatically controlled warm water is available at the wash-hand basins in the proposed new care room. Cleaning schedules to be used in the care room were available.

Cleaning products are stored on a high shelf.

Waste is stored inaccessible to the children.

The kitchen is inaccessible to the children.

### 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:

- (1) Seven staff members have in-date First Aid Responder (FAR) certificates available for inspection.
- (2) (a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box in the proposed new care room and it is positioned in an easily accessible position and out of reach of the children.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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:

- (1)
- (a) A form to record fire drills was available for review. Fire drill records showed fire drills will be completed monthly in the service.
  - (b) The maintenance record for the firefighting equipment dated 01/12/2023 and the smoke alarms dated 29/4/2024 were available for inspection. The records included the new care room.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were on display in the proposed new care room.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The service is currently insured to provide care and education for 300 children at one time on a full day care basis.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 preschool premises appeared to be a stable structure.  
 Water is provided by the public mains.  
 Sewage is removed from the building via the public sewage system.
- (b)  
 The proposed new care room door is fitted with a thumb lock on the inside out of children’s reach. Access and exit to and from the care room will be managed by staff.
- (c)  
 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.  
 Electric heaters which are thermostatically controlled are fitted in the care room.  
 The room will be ventilated by opening windows. Windows were open on the day of inspection for ventilation purposes.
- (d)  
 The proposed new care room is adequately cleaned and maintained.  
 Cleaning schedules which will be used in the care room were reviewed. Evidence of rodent proofing was observed on site and documentation was reviewed in relation to same.
- (e)  
 A sanitary area adjacent to the proposed care room is fitted with 3 toilet cubicles and 2 sinks, which is adequate for the number of children proposed. Staff will use separate facilities.

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).

**Requirement met:**

(1) and (2)  
 The proposed new room Spraoi provides 51.38 square metres of clear floor space. This is adequate to meet the needs of 22 children aged 2 years 8 months to 6 years proposed to attend on a part time basis.

(3) The proposed new care room has adequate space to accommodate 22 children proposed to attend the Spraoi care room on a sessional basis.

(4)(a) & (b) A minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service on a sessional basis.