

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015DY213

Name of Service The Learning Tree

Address of Service: Grace Park Road
Drumcondra
Dublin 9
D09 WK0H

Email Address: info@thelearningtree.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Mary Leonard

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

Proposed change: Proposal to open a new care room in the service, increasing the number of care rooms from 11 rooms to 12 rooms. The number of children will remain the same.

Proposed Number of Children: 170

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Full day care
170 children
Age range 0-6 years old
Operating hours 7.30 – 18.00

Registered change: Additional Care Room

Date of Inspection:	2	3	0	7	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: T. Nelson

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate
2nd Floor, Unit 4/5
The Nexus Building
Blanchardstown Corporate Park
Ballycoolin
Dublin 15 | D15 CF9K

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Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care/Part-Time/Sessional for 170 Children
Date of Registration	6 th August 2024

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	The proposed care room will provide full day care for up to 10 children ranging in age from 18 months to 2 years old. This will bring the total number of care rooms in the service to twelve, catering for a maximum of 170 children at any one time. The service operates Monday to Friday 7.30am to 6.00pm.
Premises	The proposed care-room will operate from the first floor of the existing childcare service. There is sanitary accommodation located off the care-room. The existing eleven care rooms operate over three floors of the premises. Other facilities within the premises include an onsite kitchen, office space, two dedicated sleep rooms, and sanitary accommodation on each of the floors for both staff and children. There are two enclosed outdoor play areas situated to the front of the premises.
Staffing	The proposed care-room will have 2 full time and 1 part-time staff member. The service employs 62 staff. This includes the person in charge who manages the oversight of the service, a management team comprising of three staff members, 45 staff who work directly with the children, five pre-school assistant students, school age staff, a chef, a catering assistant and three cleaning staff.
Methodology	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. The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the management team, 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:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a) The proposed service has a designated person in charge and a named staff member is available 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.

(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:

The requirement is met.

(1) The registered provider has proposed that 3 adults will be working with the 10 children attending the proposed new childcare room.

(8)(c) Not applicable. The proposed sessional service will not operate single-handedly.

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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:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a) The proposed care room will provide adequate and suitable facilities for the children to play indoors with defined areas of interest in the room. There is an adequate supply of toys and resources available. Furniture in the room is suitable for the age and stage of development of the children, with toys and equipment stored on low-level shelving accessible to the children.

(1)(b) There is adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day. There is a cosy area available in the care room where children can take a place from activities and rest. There are 10 low beds available, with sufficient space for these to be laid out in the care-room for children to sleep.

(2)(b) There are two outdoor play areas available to the front of the premises which are fully enclosed and covered in a poured synthetic material, with a range of outdoor toys to facilitate physical play and foster gross motor development.

Outdoor play is rostered to allow for the children access outdoor play twice daily.

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 requirement is met.

Meals will be provided by the service and prepared in the onsite kitchen. There is a four-week menu plan and healthy eating policy in place.

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A water station will be available in room where children will have access to drinking water.

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 emergency exits are unobstructed.
- The entry and exit is managed and monitored by staff.
- The furniture in use is suitable for the age and stage of the proposed age group of the children in the room.
- Liquid soap, hand-dryers and thermostatically controlled warm water is available in all sinks used by the staff and children.
- Cleaning schedules are in place and the room was visually clean on the day of the inspection.

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:

The requirement is met.

(1) Evidence is available that eight staff members are trained to First Aid Response Level.

(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is readily available in the care room.

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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>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1)(a) There is a template available to record fire drills that take place in the service.</p> <p>(1)(b) A written record is available to demonstrate the firefighting equipment in the premises were maintained on the on the 25 May 2024 and the smoke alarms were maintained on the 3 April 2024.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>There is a notice displayed in the care room of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.</p> <p>A fire assembly notice is visible outside of the service to enable staff and children to identify the fire assembly point.</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>The requirement is met.</p> <p>The registered provider provided evidence of appropriate insurance for up to 200 children in a full day care service, from the 28 March 2024 to 27 March 2025.</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:	The requirement is met.
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- (a) The premises appears to be of a sound and stable structure.
- (b) The entrance door to the service is secured adequately to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons from gaining access.
- (c)
- Windows provide natural lighting to the care room. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights are fitted with protective covers.
 - Heating is provided by oil-fired radiators which fitted with radiator covers. The temperature of the care room on the day of the inspection was 18.7°C.
 - The proposed care room has openable windows, and the sanitary accommodation is fitted with an operating mechanical ventilation system.
- (d) The room is clean, maintained and in good repair. There is a cleaning schedule available to ensure regular cleaning of the room.
- (e)
- There is adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation available for the children in the care room.
- There are two toilets, one nappy change unit and two wash hand basins available in the children's sanitary accommodation in the proposed new care room.
 - One toilet and or nappy change unit and 1 sink is required in the sanitary accommodation for every 11 children.
 - There is one staff toilet available on the floor where the care-room is located.

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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:

The requirement is met.

(1) The clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the proposed new care room is adequate for 10 preschool children proposed.

(2) The clear floor space available measures 28 square metres ensuring a minimum amount of 2.8 square metres of clear floor space for each child attending the proposed new care-room in respect of the proposed age range of 1-2 years.

This provides clear floor space for 10 children attending on a full day care basis.