

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2015DY303

Name of Service Christchurch Creche & Montessori School

Address of Service: Dominic Street Lower, Dublin, D01XN81

Email Address: esther.brennan.ring@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Esther Brennan

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 Service Location

Proposed Number of Children: 44 Full day care.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Approve change of address
Full day care, 44 children, Age range 0-6 years

Registered change: Change in service address from Dublin City Council, Ground Floor, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Co. Dublin, D08 RF3F to Dominic Street Lower, Dublin, D01XN81

Dates of Inspection: Day 1	0	5	0	7	2	0	2	3
Day 2	0	4	0	9	2	0	2	3

Inspection undertaken by: T. Nelson and Á. Dunne, Day 1
T. Nelson, Day 2

Title: Early Years Inspectors

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

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 44 Children
Date of Registration	13 th September 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).

Description of Service	The proposed childcare service will provide full day care to children aged from 0 to 5 years. The service will operate from 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday.
Premises	The proposed childcare service will operate from a single story detached premises in Dublin City centre. Three care rooms are proposed to include an Infant Room (0 – 2 years), a Toddler Room (2 – 3 years) and a Montessori Room (3 – 5 years). A cot room and nappy changing facilities are located off the infant and toddler rooms, sanitary accommodation for staff and children located off the reception hall, a office and a kitchen. There is to be a fully enclosed outdoor to the front of the premises.
Staffing	The service will employ up to 10 staff, seven staff to work directly with the children, a relief staff member, a cook, and the registered provider who will manage the oversight of the service and provide cover where needed across the rooms.
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>
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and two staff from the local authority who were 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 requirement has been 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has proposed that 7 adults will be working initially with the children attending the proposed service with registered provider and a relief staff member available to provide cover where needed, as outlined below:

- Infant Room/Room 1: 2 adults to 8 children aged between 0-2 years.
- Toddler Room/Room 2: 2 adults to 12 children aged between 2 -3 years.
- Montessori Room/Room 3: 3 adults to 22 children aged between 3 -5 years.

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:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

The proposed care rooms will provide adequate and suitable facilities for the children to play indoors with some defined areas of interest in the rooms. There is an adequate supply of toys and resources available. Furniture in the rooms is suitable for the age and

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	<p>stage of development of the children, with toys and equipment stored on low-level shelving accessible to the children. There are cosy areas available for children to take a break from activities and rest.</p> <p>(1)(b) The requirement has been met.</p> <p>There are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day. A cot room is available with space for 5 cots, and a further 3 cots are available for the children under two years. A rest area is provided in the care rooms and 20 sleep mats are available which can be laid out in the care rooms to accommodate rest or sleep for children over two years.</p> <p>An appropriate supply of bed linen is available, with cellular blankets for children under 2 years.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(2)(b) The requirement is not met.</p> <p>There is not a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space available to the children.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The outdoor area is not fully enclosed. The gate to the nearby carpark is not secured. Children could exit the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could gain access. 2. Building equipment and materials such as wet cement, bags of gravel and sand, cement mixer, are accessible to the children. These pose a risk of injury to the children. 3. The ground is uneven, with visible holes and an open drain hole accessible to the children. These are a trip hazard and pose a risk of infection. 4. A large refuse bin and three unlidged public bins are accessible to the children. These pose a risk of injury and a risk of contamination. 5. The seven metal benches have sharp edges which pose a risk of injury. 6. The area is visibly dirty with cigarette butts, building refuse and litter throughout. These pose of risk of contamination or injury to the children. 7. A metal lamppost does not have protective padding and poses a risk of injury to the children. 8. A crushed metal box that was previously used for pest control purposes is accessible to children and poses a risk of injury. 9. The large climbing frame is cracked and visibly dirty and poses a risk to the children. 10. The children have access to equipment which is unsuitable to their age and stage of development. Large swings, climbing frames and bouncing equipment pose a risk of injury to the children. 11. There is no risk assessment available to support safe outdoor play.

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Response from Provider:	<p>The proposed registered provider has completed the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The outdoor area is now fully enclosed with gate to the nearby carpark secured, as part of the planned works. 2. With building works now completed, all building equipment and materials have been removed, the area is cleared, risk free and fit for purpose. 3. As per proposed ground works, the ground is currently being levelled and resurfaced. The area will be non-hazardous and risk free. 4. All bins have been removed and are safely secured in the appropriate area. 5. The seven metal benches have been removed. 6. With all works completed a thorough clean & sanitisation of all areas has been carried out. 7. The metal lamppost has been safeguarded with the use of protective padding as intended. 8. The metal box has been removed. 9. The large climbing frame has been removed. 10. All unsuitable equipment has been removed. 11. A risk assessment was developed and submitted.
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>Following a second follow up fit for purpose inspection on the 4th September 2023 the registered provider completed outstanding works.</p>

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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The proposed service will prepare and provide all meals and snacks in the onsite kitchen. The registered provider stated that children will receive four meals per day, with breakfast on arrival, a hot meal from 11.15 to 12.15pm, a snack at 2.00pm, and a tea at 4.30pm. There is a three-week rotating menu plan available.</p> <p>Water stations are available in rooms where children have access to drinking water throughout the day.</p>
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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 not met:

The requirement is not met.

General Safety:

1. There are no socket covers available in the sockets throughout the premises, leaving them accessible to children. This poses a risk of injury.
2. There are no window restrictors available on the windows throughout the premises. There is a risk children could climb and access open windows.
3. Tall units in the both the nappy changing area and Room 2 are not secured to the wall. This poses a risk of injury.
4. Presses throughout the premises do not have child locks in place. Children had access to hazardous items such as nails and building adhesive.
5. Blind cords throughout the premises are not secured. These pose a risk to the children.
6. The self-closing devices on the fire doors from the care rooms onto the reception area are not operating sufficiently. The doors slammed closed. This poses a risk of injury to the children.
7. Items such as large pictures and plastic piping are propped against the walls in Rooms 1 and 2. These could topple onto the children.
8. The following rooms are accessible to the children, which poses a risk of injury to the children:
 - The door handle to the kitchen is within reach of children, leaving the kitchen accessible to children.
 - There is no handle on the door to the staff sanitary accommodation, leaving it accessible to children.
 - The storage room off the reception area is open and is accessible to the children.
9. The fire extinguishers throughout the premises are accessible to children and are placed at a height that could cause injury to children.
10. There are no radiator covers on the radiators throughout the premises. This poses a scald risk when the radiator is not thermostatically controlled.
11. There is a thumb lock accessible to the children on the door to the hallway of the sanitary accommodation from the reception area and on the door to the children's sanitary accommodation. There is a risk children could lock themselves in.
12. There is a pull cord for the shower unit accessible to children in the children's sanitary accommodation. This poses a risk of injury.

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	<p>13. There is no daily risk assessment available for any of the rooms in the premises.</p> <p>Infection Control: The following increases the potential risk of infection:</p> <p>14. There is no paper towels, liquid soap or thermostatically controlled warm water available at the hand wash basins in Rooms 1 and 2, and the Nappy Changing Unit.</p> <p>15. The hand dryer in the children’s sanitary accommodation is not operating, there is no paper towels available in the paper towel dispenser, and the dispenser unit is out of reach to the children.</p> <p>16. There is no toilet paper available in one of the toilets in the children’s sanitary accommodation.</p> <p>17. The carpet flooring in Rooms 1 and 2 and in the Nappy Changing area is neither washable or wipeable. It does not allow for effective cleaning.</p> <p>Fire Safety:</p> <p>18. There is no sign to indicate the emergency exit route from the cot room in the case of an emergency, and no signage above the door in Room 1 onto the Reception area.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>The proposed registered provider completed the following:</p> <p>General Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Socket covers have been fitted to all sockets, accessible to children throughout the premises, as intended. 2. Window restrictors have been fitted to any windows accessible to children throughout the premises. 3. All tall units in the nappy changing area and Room 2 have been secured to the wall. 4. With works now fully completed, there is no longer building works equipment and/or items on the premises. Furthermore, all presses throughout the premises, that require locks have been fitted. 5. All blinds have been replaced and restrictors are in place. 6. Safe self-closing hinges have been fitted to the fire doors from the care rooms onto the reception area. 7. As works to the premises have now been completed, any items as specified have been removed from Rooms 1 and 2, and indeed throughout the premises. 8. - In line with building & fire regulations kitchen access is now secure. - A handle placed at a high level has been fitted on the door to the staff sanitary accommodation ensuring it is no longer accessible to children. - The storage room off the reception area is locked, and no longer accessible to the children. 9. All fire extinguishers have been covered & placed a suitable height throughout the premises. Ensuring they are no longer accessible or pose a risk to children.

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	<p>10. All radiators are now fitted with child safe radiator covers, as intended.</p> <p>11. All thumb locks have been removed.</p> <p>12. The shower area has been re utilised and is now a child’s toilet & sink area.</p> <p>13. A daily risk assessment was developed and submitted.</p> <p>Infection Control:</p> <p>14. There are paper towels, liquid soap and thermostatically controlled warm water available at the hand wash basins in each room, as intended.</p> <p>15. There are paper towels available in the paper towel dispenser, and the dispenser unit is now positioned at a lower level and within reach to the children in the children’s sanitary accommodation.</p> <p>16. Toilet paper is now available in all toilets, with stock supplies available all times.</p> <p>17. The carpet flooring in Rooms 1 and 2 and in the Nappy Changing area has been replaced.</p> <p>Fire Safety:</p> <p>18. The emergency exit route from the cot room is now clearly displayed. There is now emergency exit signage above the door in Room 1.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>Following a second follow up fit for purpose inspection on the 4th September 2023 the registered provider completed outstanding works.</p>

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:	<p>(1) The requirement is met.</p> <p>Evidence is available that three people trained to First Aid Response Level are available to the children attending the service.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(2)(a)(b) The requirement is not met.</p> <p>There is no suitable equipped first aid box on the premises.</p>

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Response from Provider:	A suitably equipped first aid box for children is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises and is available (via the children practitioner) to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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) The requirement is met. There is a template available to record fire drills that take place in the service. (1)(b) The requirement is partially met. There is a record available to demonstrate the maintenance of the firefighting equipment.
Requirement not met:	(1)(b) The requirement is not met. There is no record available to demonstrate the maintenance of the smoke alarms. (4) The requirement is not met. There is no notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire available in any of the rooms in the proposed service.
Response from Provider:	(1)(b) A record of the recent maintenance of the smoke alarm system was submitted. (4) Fire Safety Procedures are now displayed clearly in each room.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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.
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The registered provider provided evidence of appropriate insurance for up to 44 children in a full day service, from the 3rd July 2023 to 21st March 2024.

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 partially met.

(a) The premises appeared to be of a sound and stable structure.

(e) There is adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation available for staff. There is a wheelchair accessible toilet.

Requirement not met:

The requirement is not met.

(b) The premises is not safe and secure. The main entrance door which leads into the service is not secured. Children could exit unsupervised and unauthorised persons could gain entry.

(c) The premises is not adequately lit, heated and ventilated. For example:

1. The light fitting in Room 1 does not have a shatter proof cover.
2. There is no heating available throughout the premises.
3. There is no natural ventilation or operating mechanical ventilation available in the following rooms:
 - Room 3: there is no mechanical ventilation available and the windows present in the room can not be opened.
 - The Nappy Changing room: there is no means of natural ventilation and the mechanical ventilation is not working.

(d) The premises is not cleaned, maintained and repaired as required. For example:

1. There is visible dirt on the floor in the nappy changing room.
2. There is no cleaning schedule available.
3. There is exposed wood on the door frame from the reception area to the kitchen.
4. There is exposed piping in Room 3.
5. The children's sinks in Rooms 1 and 2 are not secured and are not sealed.

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6. The wall at the sink unit in the children's sanitary accommodation is unfinished and does not have a wipeable surface.
7. There are holes in three corners on the wall in Room 1.
8. There is no saddle board in the doorway from Room 1 into the Cot Room, leaving bare flooring exposed.
9. There is an unsecured cable in the corner of the Cot Room.
10. The skirting board by the sink in the children's sanitary accommodation is unfinished.

(e) The premises is not equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

1. The sanitary facilities available are not sufficient to provide for the proposed number of children who will attend as outlined below:

Sanitary Facilities	Number of Nappy changing units	Number of Toilets	Number of Wash hand basins (WHB)	Number of children this can accommodate
Nappy changing Room	1	0	1	11
Childrens sanitary accommodation	0	2	2	22
Total	1	2	2	33

2. There is no running water available in the premises.
3. There is a window from the reception looking into the Nappy Changing Room. This does not provide privacy for the children.

Response from Provider:

The proposed register provider has completed the following actions:

(b) With works now complete, the main entrance door is secured and safe.

(c) With works now complete, the premises is adequately lit, heated and ventilated.

1. The light fitting in Room 1 has been replaced with a shatter proof cover.
2. There is central heating throughout, circulated via thermostatically controlled radiators that have been fitted with radiator covers.
3. All rooms now contain both natural and/or mechanical ventilation as required.

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	<p>(d) Upon completion of all building works, deep cleanse & sanitation, all areas in the premises are now safe, clean, tidy, risk and hazard free zones.</p> <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The premises is now fully equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. 2. There is now running water available in the premises. 3. The window from the reception looking into the Nappy Changing Room has now been frosted, to ensure privacy for the children. 																				
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>Following a second follow up fit for purpose inspection on the 4th September 2023 the registered provider completed outstanding works.</p> <p>There are now sufficient sanitary facilities to accommodate the 44 children.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="545 880 1505 1339"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sanitary Facilities</th> <th>Number of Nappy changing units</th> <th>Number of Toilets</th> <th>Number of Wash hand basins (WHB)</th> <th>Number of children this can accommodate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nappy changing Room</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Childrens sanitary accommodation</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>55</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sanitary Facilities	Number of Nappy changing units	Number of Toilets	Number of Wash hand basins (WHB)	Number of children this can accommodate	Nappy changing Room	2	0	2	22	Childrens sanitary accommodation	0	3	2	33	Total	2	3	4	55
Sanitary Facilities	Number of Nappy changing units	Number of Toilets	Number of Wash hand basins (WHB)	Number of children this can accommodate																	
Nappy changing Room	2	0	2	22																	
Childrens sanitary accommodation	0	3	2	33																	
Total	2	3	4	55																	

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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) There is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children proposed to attend the pre-school service. A total of 160m² is available for the proposed 42 children.

(2) There is a minimum amount of clear floor space for the age range of the children attending the service, as the table below demonstrates:

Room Name	Clear floor space m ² proposed by Registered Provider	Clear floor space m ² measured by EYI	Space required:	Proposed number of children:
Room 1 (0-2 years)	34.4 m ²	33 m ²	0-1 years: 3.5 m ² 1-2 years: 2.8 m ²	10 FDC*
Room 2 (2-3 years)	46.3 m ²	46.4 m ²	2-3 years: 2.35 m ²	12 FDC*
Room 3 (3-6 years)	81.1 m ²	81.1 m ²	3-6 years: 2.3 m ²	22 FDC*

*FDC – Full day care.