

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015DY370

Name of Service: Chestnut Daycare Ltd.

Address of Service: Unit 2 Oblates View, Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8, Co. Dublin.

Email Address: inchicore@chestnutdaycare.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Laura Higgins

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: Change in the number of children accommodated with the addition of a new adjoining extension to the existing premises encompassing two new care rooms and a designated sleep room.

Proposed Number of Children: 60

Recommended Change Following Inspection: All changes to be approved

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 45 to 60.
Change in number of staff from 18 to 20.

Date of Inspection:	1	0	0	4	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: Ms S. Quigley

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 1st Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park,
Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co Wicklow

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 60 Children
Date of Registration	12 th April 2024

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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	<p>Chestnut Daycare is a privately owned service which offers care and education on a full day, part time, and sessional basis to children aged 0 to 6 years. The programme of care is facilitated through a blend of a play-based and Montessori curriculum and an Early Childhood Care and Education scheme is offered. The service operates from 7:30 to 18:00 each weekday. Chestnut Daycare is located in an urban area in Inchicore, South County Dublin, and is one of 6 early years services operated by the registered provider.</p>
Premises	<p>The service currently operates from the ground floor of two purposely adapted commercial units which are adjacent to each other and comprised of three care rooms, a kitchen, an office, and sanitary accommodation in the first building and a care room and sanitary accommodation in the adjacent building. A fifth care room which was previously in operation has been adapted into a designated sleep room for the service. An outdoor play area is available on the premises.</p> <p>The current premises has been extended into an adjoining commercial premises which has been purposely adapted for use as an early years service. The additional premises will accommodate the proposed additional children and consists of two care rooms and sanitary accommodation for staff and children.</p>
Staffing	<p>There is a designated person in charge in the service and two named persons to deputise. The service currently employs 16 staff members, not including the registered provider. Additional staff members were employed in the service to accommodate the increase in children and are already working in the service. Adults employed to work in the service have attained a minimum of a level 5 award in early childhood care and education on the national framework of qualifications, or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.</p>
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</p>

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	<p>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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children 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 of Regulation 9 (1) (a) has been met. A designated person in charge is available in the service and two named persons to deputise are available if 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 person in charge has identified that a minimum of two staff members will be on the premises at all times and evidenced this with the staffing roster in place for the 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—

(a) 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 has been met.

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	<p>(1)(a) Adequate and suitable facilities were provided for children to play indoors and outdoors. The new care rooms were bright and spacious and well laid out with various equipment and play materials on open, low level shelving units.</p> <p>(1)(b) Adequate and suitable rest facilities were available for preschool children to rest during the day in each room if required. A rest area is provided in each care room. The person in charge stated children aged over three years are prosed to attend the new care rooms who will not typically require sleep. However, low level beds and appropriate bedding were available should a child require sleep.</p> <p>(2)(a) The service has use of a designated outdoor play area in the courtyard between two buildings. The area is fully enclosed and equipped with a range of play materials.</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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>A separate kitchen was available in the service with facilities for storing perishable foods and for the preparation of a rotating three-week menu for meals and snacks was in place. A healthy eating policy was available and a full-time cook is employed in the service to prepare all meals and snacks for the children in attendance. The person in charge stated a hot meal is served daily as the main meal alongside two snacks, breakfast, and an evening tea.</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 met:

The requirement has been met.

External doors were adequately secure to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. The entrance doors were equipped with key pad and finger imaging systems.

Facilities were available for the safe and secure storage of cleaning agents and equipment, and alcohol-based sanitisers out of reach of children.

There was provision for the appropriate storage and disposal of waste including foot pedal operated bins in the care rooms and sanitary areas.

Mechanisms were in place to ensure the kitchen is inaccessible to children.

The outdoor play area was appropriately secured.

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice and cleaning schedules were available and in use to ensure care rooms and sanitary accommodation are regularly cleaned. Warm water, soap, and paper towels were available to facilitate handwashing.

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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 has been met.

(1) Certification was available to evidence that a person trained in first aid was available to the children at all times in the service.

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in each care room and stored in a conspicuous location.

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) The registered provider indicated that fire drills take place monthly in the service and appropriate documentation was in place to record them.

(b) There was a record available to indicate the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in various conspicuous locations within the premises.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

Documentation reviewed evidenced that the service is adequately insured for the increase in children with the addition of two new care rooms.

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 met.

- (a) The proposed new care rooms have been purposely adapted for use as a preschool service and appeared to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) There was one entrance door to the new section of the service which was appropriately safe and secure with a keypad lock mechanism. The outdoor area was secured to prevent a child exiting the area unsupervised and prevent unauthorised access.
- (c) The care rooms both benefited from an abundance of natural light via windows around the care room and all other areas of the premises. Ventilation was in place through an openable window in the new Montessori 1 room, and through a mechanical ventilation system in the Montessori 2 room. There was a convectional gas central heating system in place and thematically controlled radiators were located at ceiling height out of reach of children.

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	<p>(d) Cleaning schedules were in place in the service. The premises and surrounding environments were clean and maintained as required.</p> <p>(e) The service was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. There was two toilets and wash hand basins designated for use by staff working in the service. There were seven toilets and seven wash hand basins designated for use in the children’s sanitary areas. Two nappy changing units with two hand wash sinks were available. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water was available in the hand wash sinks.</p>
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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.*
- (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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) An area of 38.13 square metres in the new Montessori 1 room and an area of 37.63 square metres in the new Montessori 2 room provided adequate floor space for the proposed additional 15 preschool children.</p> <p>(2) The care room had adequate clear floor space for a service that provides full day, part-time and sessional care for children aged 2years and 8months to six years.</p> <p>(3) Not applicable.</p> <p>(4) There was adequate floor space to accommodate children who attend a concurrent sessional service. However, the person in charge stated the service are</p>
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intending to cater for children attending on a full day care or part time basis only in the new care rooms.