

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015DY394

Name of Service: Alexandra College Pre-School

Address of Service: Milltown Road
Milltown
Dublin 6 West

Email Address: jsinfo@alexandracollege.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Avril Lamplugh

Type of Proposed Service:	Sessional		Part-Time		Drop-In	
	Full Day Care	x	Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Part Time to Full Day Care

Proposed Number of Children: 44

Registered change: Change in Service Type from Part Time to Full Day Care

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

Inspection undertaken by: Linda Magee & Fiona Carty

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 2nd Floor, Carysfort House,
Carysfort Avenue,
Blackrock, Co Dublin.

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	7 th February 2022

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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	This service is located in an urban setting in Milltown, south county Dublin. The service is registered to provide part-time and sessional care to children aged 2-6 years and operates an Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme. The service is registered to operate between the hours of 08:00 – 13:00, Monday to Friday. The programme of care is facilitated through a blend of a play based and Montessori curriculum.
Premises	The service is located on the grounds of Alexandra junior and secondary school and currently operates from two large care rooms, one in the main school building and the second is a wooden structure on the grounds of the school. The proposed room to cater for children remaining in the service for full day care is called the ‘afterschool room’ and is adjacent to these existing two rooms. The service has access to a large outdoor play area with a concrete surfacing.
Staffing	The service employs five staff members, including the registered provider who does not work directly with the children.
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 two themes; Governance, and Safety.</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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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, 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 has been met.

(1)(a) The registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise 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.

(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 has been met.

(1) There are an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service at present. The registered provider has an adequate number of adults available to work with the children in the full daycare room.

(8)(b) Not applicable as this is not a childminding service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a sessional service that operates single handedly.

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—

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(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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The service includes two rooms which are currently in use for pre-school children. The registered provider proposes to provide a full-day service for pre-school children in a third room. The rooms are bright and spacious and laid out to cater for the age range of children that will be attending in each room.</p> <p>(1)(b) There will be no children under two years of age attending the service. Suitable rest areas have been provided in the main pre-school rooms and the afterschool room.</p> <p>(2)(b) The service has access to a suitable and safe large outdoor play area with concrete surfacing. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor areas.</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:	This requirement has been met. The children bring in a morning snack from home. An afternoon snack and two hot meals are provided for by the preschool.
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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 secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. The outdoor area was secured.
There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste. The service has a full-time cleaner who maintains a cleaning routine in the service.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.
(1) There was evidence that two members of staff were FAR trained.
(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was provided. It was positioned in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in each preschool 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 has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) There was evidence that fire drills are practised monthly in the service.</p> <p>(1)(b) There was a record available relating to the number, type and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment and for the smoke detection system for the premises.</p> <p>(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed. The fire assembly point was identified.</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:	There was evidence of current insurance cover for the whole school until 31/07/2022.
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(a) The service will be located in three preschool rooms within an existing structure at ground level.</p> <p>(b) There are two points of entry to the childcare service; both doors are locked, and access is controlled from the service. The outdoor area is secured to prevent a child leaving the area unsupervised.</p> <p>(c) The premise benefits from high levels of natural light via windows in the pre-school rooms. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from covered fluorescent lights in the room. Windows in the pre-school rooms can be opened.</p>
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	<p>There is a mechanical ventilation system in the sanitary area in two preschool rooms and natural ventilation through an opened window in the afterschool sanitary area.</p> <p>(d) The service was clean and well maintained and cleaning schedules are in place.</p> <p>(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities have been provided in the service.</p> <p>There are seven toilets and eight wash hand basins designated for children's use. There are separate toilets and wash hand basins in the main school building designated for use by adults. Thermostatically controlled hot water was available and did not exceed 43°C.</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.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space is available for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.</p> <p>(2) The minimum amount of clear floor space for children attending a full day service is 2.35 square metres (2–3-year-old children) and 2.3 square metres (3-6 year old children).</p> <p>The clear floor space available in preschool lower is 43 square metres, preschool upper is 54 square metres and in the afterschool room is 92 square metres. A total of 189 square metres for the three rooms combined.</p>
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