

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015FL040							
Name of Service	Bright Sparks Montessori							
Address of Service:	Kinsealy Lane, Malahide, Co. Dublin K36 YK40							
Email Address:	Info@brightsparksmontessori.ie							
Name of Registered Provider:	Lynsey Mc Cabe							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓		
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	Change in service type from sessional to part-time & sessional Change in hours of operation from 9am - 4:30pm to 8:45am to 4:45pm							
Proposed Number of Children:	36							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Change in service type from sessional to part-time & sessional Change in hours of operation from 9am - 4:30pm to 8:45am to 4:45pm Change in number of children from 64 to 36 (Max 28 part-time)							
Registered change:	Change in service type from sessional to part-time & sessional Change in hours of operation from 9am - 4:30pm to 8:45am to 4:45pm Change in number of children from 64 to 36(Max 28 part-time)							
Date of Inspection:	2	6	0	1	2	0	2	6
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Coyle							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							

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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6
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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 Part-Time & Sessional Service for 36 (Max 28 Part-Time) Children
Date of Registration	17 April 2026

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	Bright sparks Montessori is a privately owned sessional service providing early years care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme with children currently attending for sessional care from 09:00am to 12:30pm, 09:15am to 12:45pm and 13:00pm to 16:30pm depending on which preschool room the children are enrolled in. Two separate outdoor areas are located to the front and side of the service. The registered provider is proposing to change service type from sessional to sessional/part time and change the current hours of operation of the service from 9am - 4:30pm to 8:45am to 4:45pm. This proposed change would result in the following changes to the individual care rooms: Hawthorn room: 08:45am- 12:45pm Sycamore room: 9am -1.00pm and the Pine room: 1:15pm-4:45pm
Premises	Bright sparks Montessori is located alongside a private residence on Kinsealy lane, north Dublin, there are 2 preschool rooms namely the Sycamore room and the Hawthorn room which becomes the Pine room for the children attending the afternoon sessional service.
Staffing	The service employs 8 staff members including the registered provider all of whom work directly with the children attending the service.
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 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

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	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 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:	(1)(a) The requirement has been met. The registered provider is the designated person in charge on a daily basis, and a named person is available to deputise as required.
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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 is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6 and would ensure that an adequate number of adults would at all times work directly with the children in the service.
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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.
- (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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The care rooms were resourced with a broad range of play materials and equipment to facilitate children to initiate and sustain meaningful play activities. The play materials were stored at an accessible level to the pre-school children. A secure outdoor area is located to the front of the service.

(b) A rest area is available in both care rooms with soft matting, low level couches, chairs and cushions to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the day if required. Sleep mats are available in the service to facilitate children who may require sleep while in attendance.

(3)(a) Two separate outdoor spaces were provided in the service, the garden area and the bike area. Both play areas are located to the front of the service, the garden area is fully enclosed, and a system is in place to secure the front gate of the bike area to ensure the children's safety before they go outside to play. There was no safety hazards noted on the day of inspection.

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 has been met. The children will bring their own lunch and snacks with them to the service. Fridges are provided in each care room for the storage of perishable items. Potable water is available for the children to drink.

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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.

- The external doors, windows and the outdoor play area were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years' service.
- The play materials were appropriate for the age range of children proposed to attend the individual care rooms.
- Thermostatically controlled running water was available at the wash hand basins in the service. Liquid soap and paper towels were available for the children's and staff members' use.
- The fire exits are clearly marked in the service.
- Cleaning agents were inaccessible to children, stored in locked cupboards in the care rooms.
- The service's refuse bins were inaccessible to 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There are two staff members in the service who hold in-date first aid response (FAR) training.

(2)(a)(b) First aid boxes were suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions in the care rooms, available at all times for the children if necessary.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A copy of the monthly fire drills was available in the service.

(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment in the service. The firefighting equipment was certified as having been serviced on 29/01/2026 and the smoke alarms were certified as having been serviced on the 04/02/2026.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the service.

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. An insurance certificate confirming insurance for 36 children attending the service at any one time up until 27/03/2026 was available. Furthermore, the registered provider has obtained a quote from the insurance company for the proposed changes to the service type and operating hours of the service.

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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 has been met.

(a) On visual inspection the premises appears to be structurally sound.

(b) The premises were safe and secure. Both care room have their own separate entrance doors which were secured adequately to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.

(c)

Lighting:

Both care rooms have a number of windows which provides the room with natural light. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Appropriate shatter proof coverings are provided on the ceiling lighting. There are sufficient windows provided in the care rooms to achieve adequate ventilation.

Heating:

The premises is heated by means of wall mounted electrical heating. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection.

Ventilation:

Ventilation in the care rooms is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents.

(d) The premises is in a clean condition and in a good state of repair.

(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation were available in the service.

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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 has been met.

- (1) There is adequate free floor space available for the safety, play and movement of the number of children proposed to attend the service.
- (2) The minimum space regulatory requirement can be met for the proposed number of 36 preschool attending the service on a sessional basis and 28 children attending on a part time basis, The registered provider is aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in schedule 7.
 - The clear floor space of the Sycamore room is 32.78m². This provides sufficient space for the 18 children between the age of 2 years 8 months to 5 years to be cared for in this room on a sessional ECCE basis or 14 children attending on a part time basis.
 - The clear floor space of the Hawthorn /Pine room is 32.79 m². This provides sufficient space for 18 children between the age of 2 years 8 months to 5 years to be cared for in this room on a sessional ECCE basis or 14 children attending on a part time basis.