

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015FL191

Name of Service Little Sparrows Early Years Preschool Service

Address of Service: Hartstown Community Centre (behind), Hartstown Road, Clonsilla, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin

Email Address: Ejohnso1082@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Edain Johnson

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

Proposed change: Proposal to move existing care room to prefabricated building at the same address.

Proposed Number of Children: 33 sessional
11 in the existing facility
22 in the proposed new care room.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Sessional care
31 children
Age range 2-5 years
Operating hours 9.00am – 12.00pm and 12.30pm-3.30pm

Registered change: Sessional Service for 31 Children, 2-5 Years

Date of Inspection:	1	2	0	1	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
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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 Sessional Service for 31 Children, 2-5 Years
Date of Registration	19 th January 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 sessional care to children aged 2 to 6 years Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. The service proposed to operate two Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme sessional services; 9.00am to 12.00pm, and 12.30pm to 3.30pm.
Premises	The proposed care-room will operate from a prefabricated building in the grounds of the existing childcare service. There is sanitary accommodation located off the care-room. There is one existing care room operating from a separate prefabricated building on the premises within a short walking distance to the proposed new care room.
Staffing	The service will employ up to three staff to work directly with the children in the proposed new care room.
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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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 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 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 initially with the 20 children attending the proposed new childcare room.

(8)(c) Not applicable. The proposed sessional service will not operate 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—

(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.

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Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(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 rooms. There is an adequate supply of toys and resources available. Furniture in the rooms is suitable for the age and stage of the children, with toys and equipment stored on low-level shelving accessible to the children.</p> <p>(1)(b) There is adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day. A child-sized couch with cushions is available in the care room to allow children to take a break from activities and rest.</p> <p>(2)(b) An outdoor play area is available to the side of the premises which is fully enclosed and covered in grass. There is a sheltered area available with a range of indoor and outdoor toys to facilitate physical play and foster gross motor development.</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 is met.</p> <p>Snacks will be provided by parents which will be stored in the fridge in the care room. There is a healthy eating policy in place.</p> <p>Water stations will be available in room where children have access to drinking water.</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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emergency exits are unobstructed. • The entrance is managed and monitored by staff.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The furniture in use is suitable for the age and stage of the proposed age groups of the children in the rooms. Liquid soap, hand-dyers and thermostatically controlled warm water is available in all sinks used by the staff and children. Cleaning schedules are in place and the rooms were visually clean on the day of the inspection.
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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 is met.

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

(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is readily available.

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 firefighting 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 is partially met.

(1)(a) There is a template available to record fire drills that take place in the service.

(1)(b) A written record is available to demonstrate the smoke alarms in the premises were maintained on the 20 December 2023.

(4)

There is a notice displayed in each of the care rooms of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

A fire assembly notice is visible outside of the service to enable staff and children to identify the fire assembly point.

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Requirement not met:	The requirement is not met. (1)(b) There is no written record to demonstrate that the firefighting equipment has been serviced.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider submitted documentary evidence that the firefighting equipment was serviced on the 21 December 2023.
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 not met:	The requirement is not met. The registered provider provided evidence of appropriate insurance for up to 22 children in a sessional service, from the 28 March 2023 to 27 March 2024. Adequate insurance is required for 31 children in a sessional service. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider submitted a revised insurance certificate which provides cover for 2 rooms covering a maximum of 33 children (22 and 11 children per session) from the 28 March to 27 March 2024.
Summary Comment:	The requirement has been met.

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. (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.
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	<p>(c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows provide natural lighting to all the care rooms. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights are fitted with protective covers. • Heating is provided by electric wall hanging radiators which are thermostatically controlled the children. The temperature of the care room on the day of the inspection was 19.4°C. • The proposed care room has openable windows, and the sanitary accommodation has an openable window and is fitted with a mechanical ventilation system. <p>(d) The room is clean, maintained and in good repair. There is a cleaning schedule available to ensure regular cleaning of the room.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>There is adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation available for up to 33 children who are no longer in nappies and use toilets in the service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is one toilet and one sink available in the children’s sanitary accommodation in the proposed new care room. • There are two toilets and two sinks available in existing care room which is located in a separate prefabricated building on the grounds of the service. <p>One toilet and 1 sink is required in the sanitary accommodation for every 11 toilet trained children.</p> <p>There is one staff toilet available. This can accommodate up to eight staff members.</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.

(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.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(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 20 preschool sessional children proposed.</p>
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(3) The clear floor space available measures 37.4m², ensuring a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space for each child attending the proposed new care room. This provides clear floor space for 20 children attending on a sessional care basis.