

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D:	TU2015FL191							
Name of Service	Little Sparrows Preschool Early Years Preschool							
Address of Service:	Hartstown Community Centre (behind), Hartstown Road, Clonsilla, Dublin 15 D15 CY60.							
Email Address:	ejohnso1082@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Provider:	Edain Johnson							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time		Sessional	✓		
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	Move one care room (Bubble two) currently in operation from the prefab building to the main building on the grounds of the community centre. To change session type to include sessional and part-time. To change operating hours to 9.00-2.00pm and 12.30-3.30pm							
Proposed Number of Children:	31 sessional							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Part-time and sessional care 31 Children attending on sessional basis 27 Children attending on part-time basis Age range 2-6 years Bubble two care room to operate from care room on the first floor on the main building of the community centre.							
Registered change:	Change in service type from sessional to part-time & sessional Change in hours of operation from 09:00 – 12:00, 12:30 – 15:30 to 9.00-14.00, 12.30-15.30 Change in number of children from 31 to 31(max 27 part-time children)							
Date of Inspection:	3	0	1	0	2	0	2	5
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Harte and E. Griffin							
Title:	Early Years Inspectors							

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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:

Early Years Inspectorate, 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 Part-Time & Sessional Service for 31 (Max 27 Part-Time) Children

Date of Registration

11 May 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

Little Sparrows Early Years Preschool Service is located in Dublin 15 and is currently registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 31 children aged 2 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday on a sessional basis from 9.00am-12.00pm and 12.30am-3.30pm. The service operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme sessional service in the morning and in the afternoon.

Premises

The service currently operates two care rooms on the grounds of the community centre. Care room Bubble one is located in a small building behind the centre and Bubble two is located in a separate prefabricated on the grounds. There is a small, enclosed grass outdoor play space, a sheltered outdoor play space located beside Bubble one and the service also has access to a fully fenced synthetic ground play area.

It is proposed that the Bubble two care room will cease operating from the prefabricated building and operate from a care room located within the main community centre building. The proposed care room is located on the first floor and has sanitary facilities within the room.

It is also proposed that the service will offer a part time session in addition to sessional care.



Child and Family Agency Act 2013

Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

Version 05
Implemented- Aug 2022
EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)

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Staffing	The registered provider proposes to employ up to 5 staff to care for the children including the deputy person in charge. The registered provider will also work within 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 administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was 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 is met.

(1)

(a) There is a designated person in charge and a person 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 is met.

(1) The registered provider will ensure that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children attending the service. It is proposed that there will be up to 6 adults caring for up to 27 children on a part-time basis and 31 on a sessional basis.

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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
 - (b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

Requirement met:

- (1) (a) The proposed care room and Bubble one room will provide adequate and suitable facilities for the children in the 2 to 6 years age range to play indoors.
- There are defined areas of interest in the rooms.
 - There is an adequate supply of toys and resources available to support a range of play experiences.
 - Furniture in the room is suitable for the age and stage of development of the proposed children.
 - Toys and equipment are stored on low-level shelving, visible and accessible to the children
- (2) (b) There are a low-level stackable bed and cosy area available in the proposed care room suitable for the age range of children, where they can take a break from activities and rest.
- (3) (a) There is an outdoor play area with a grass surface, a sheltered outdoor play area and an enclosed synthetic surface play area located at the rear of the community centre. A range of outdoor toys to facilitate physical play experiences for the proposed age range is available.

Requirement not met:

- (1) (b) There are no sleep facilities available in the Bubble one room in the event a child requires sleep.

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Response from Provider:	(1) (b) A suitable rest area is set up and available. A stackable bed and appropriate bed linen is available.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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 is met. - Food will be supplied both from parents and the service. - Snacks provided by parents will be stored in the fridges in the care rooms. - The service has a sample 4-week snack menu including a selection of fruit vegetables, dairy, meats and carbohydrates and will be supplied by the service. The menu also includes a vegetarian option. - Water and milk will be available daily in the care rooms. - There is a healthy eating policy in place.
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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 is partially met. The following is examples of the measures taken to safeguard children. - The emergency exits are unobstructed. - A magnetic lock system and video doorbell is present at the entrance to the proposed new care room. - A low-level handrail and anti-slip flooring are present on the staircase leading to the proposed care room. - Windows on the first-floor proposed care room have been fitted with restrictors.
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	• Play materials are safe and suitable for use. • Template daily risk assessments are available for the care rooms and outdoor area. • Safe sleep procedures are in place such as a method for recording checks for sleeping children every ten minutes in the event a child requires sleep.
Requirement not met:	1. The sheltered outdoor play area is not enclosed or made secure to prevent a child potentially exiting unsupervised. 2. The grassed outdoor play area allows for access to a passageway between two buildings that contains hazardous items. 3. Exposed pipes in the sanitary area of the proposed new care room have a surface temperature exceeding 43°C. 4. The radiator in the Bubble one care room has a surface temperature exceeding 50°C. 5. Although the service has a policy for recording temperatures there are no thermometers available to record water or surface temperatures 6. A bait box is stored in a low-level unlocked press in the proposed new care room. 7. There is no foot pedal bin present in the sanitary areas of Bubble one or the proposed new care room. 8. There is no paper towel dispenser in the Bubble one sanitary area. 9. Storage boxes containing hazards such as cables and flexes are accessible in the proposed new care room.
Response from Provider:	1. Area is now fenced. 2. Grass area is cleared. 3. Temperature gauge was fitted for water and pipes. 4. New radiator was fitted; location was changed and is fully covered. 5. Thermometer and water temperature record available. 6. Bait box has been removed. 7. Pedal bins now present. 8. Paper towel dispenser fitted. 9. Storage box removed.

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Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.
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 two staff members are trained to First Aid Response Level. (2) (a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the care room.

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 met. (1) A record of the following is available: (a) There is a template available to record fire drills that take place in the service. (b) A written record is available to demonstrate the firefighting equipment in the premises was maintained on 20th June 2025 and the smoke alarms were maintained on 11th June 2025. (4) There are notices displayed throughout the premises of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, and the fire assembly sign was displayed clearly on a wall at the front of the community centre.

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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 is met.

The registered provider has evidence of insurance for a maximum of 33 children attending part time care from 20th October 2025.

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 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.

(c) The premises is adequately lit, heated and ventilated.

- Windows provide natural lighting to the care rooms. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights are fitted with protective covers and recessed into the ceiling.
- Heating is provided through a gas heating system. The temperature of the care rooms on the day of inspection was maintained between the required 18-22°C.
- The sanitary area in the proposed new care room is fitted with a mechanical ventilation system.

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- (d) The care rooms are clean, maintained and in good repair. There is a cleaning schedule available to ensure regular cleaning of the premises.
- (e) There is an adequate number of toilets for the proposed 31 children. One toilet and one sink are required in sanitary accommodation for every 11 toilet trained children. The details are set out below:

Floor:	Number of toilets for children:	Number of nappy change units for children:	Number of sinks for children:
Bubble one (existing care room)	2	0	2
Bubble Two (proposed new care room)	2	0	3

- The toilets available were partitioned with doors to allow privacy for the children.
- There are adequate sanitary facilities available for the proposed number of staff.

Requirement not met:

- (e)
- There is no nappy changing facility available despite the registered provider advising some of the proposed children in attendance may be wearing nappies.

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	2. There was no evidence that the water in the low-level care room sink in the proposed new care room was thermostatically controlled to the required maximum temperature of 43°C. On the day of inspection, the sink exceeded a temperature of 50°C.
Response from Provider:	1. Nappy changing unit installed. 2. Thermostat fitted.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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.
- (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:

The requirement is met.

(1) There is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work play and movement of up to 27 children to attend the proposed preschool on a part time basis and 31 children to attend on a sessional basis. A total of 63.9 m² is available.

(2) The amount of clear floor space is demonstrated below.

Room Name	Clear floor space measured by EYI	Space required
Bubble one	22.4 m ²	2-3 years: 2.35 m ² 3-6 years: 2.3 m ² sessional care 1.181m ²

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	Bubble two	41.5 m ²	2-3 years: 2.35 m ² 3-6 years: 2.3 m ² sessional care 1.181m ²
	(4) The measurements recorded under (2) are sufficient for a proposed 27 children attending part-time care of the higher age bracket listed for each room and 31 children attending on a sessional basis. The registered provider must ensure adequate space in both rooms based on the age of the children attending at any given time.		