

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2015FL284							
<b>Name of Service</b>	Sticky Fingers Montessori							
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Skerries Community Centre, Dublin Road, Skerries, Co Dublin K34 FX61							
<b>Email Address:</b>	stickyfingers@skerriescommunitycentre.ie							
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sharon Guinane							
<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>		<b>Part-Time</b>	✓	<b>Sessional</b>	✓		
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>			
<b>Proposed change:</b>	To increase the number of pre-school children being catered for in the service from 52 to 59 in total.							
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	59 pre-school children.							
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	The application to increase to 59 children accommodated in the service can be approved.							
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 52 to 59.							
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	8	1	0	2	0	2	3
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S Taaffe							
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector							
<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.							

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
**Proposed Change of Circumstance**

**Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office**

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Part Time Service for 59 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023

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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Sticky Fingers Montessori is a not-for-profit part-time early years service located in and on the grounds of a community centre in Skerries, Co Dublin. Sticky Fingers Montessori is one of a number of projects delivered in Skerries Community Centre which is run under the auspices of a Board of Management. A range of sports and fitness activities, dance classes, a theatre group and a day centre for older persons are amongst the programmes delivered in the community centre. Sticky Fingers Montessori operates from 9.00am to 1.25pm each morning, accommodating children on a sessional and part-time basis during this timeframe in Room 1 and Room 3, with a further sessional service provided in Room 2 from 1.30 – 4.30pm each afternoon. From 1.30pm daily, Room 1 and Room 3 are used by two separate school age services which are operated by different registered providers, when the pre-school children attending these two care rooms have left the service.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service operates from three care rooms, of which Room 1 and Room 2 are located in a former primary school which was built in 1913 and which forms part of Skerries Community Centre, and from Room 3 which is located in a recently replaced prefabricated building on the grounds of the community centre. The children have access to an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises and to the adjoining all-weather pitches operated by the community centre. Additionally, Sticky Fingers Montessori can access a theatre space and a spacious activities hall in the former primary school and also the main activities hall in the newer bigger adjoining community centre which was constructed in 1982, when these spaces are not in use by groups or individuals attending classes or programmes delivered in the community centre.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The community centre manager is the registered provider of the Sticky Fingers Montessori and is present in the community centre on a daily basis but does not work directly with the children attending the early years service. Seven core staff members are employed in the early years service who work directly with the pre-school children. Two further adults are present in the service on a daily basis as part of a Community Employment (CE) scheme whilst undertaking formal learning and work which, once completed, may lead to a childcare qualification.</p>

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<p><b>Methodology</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Acknowledgements</b></p>	<p>The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

### 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.

A core staff member is the designated person in charge and there is a named person 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)—

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

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<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) During the fit for purpose inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. The registered provider and staff members are aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 and would ensure that an adequate number of adults is at all times working directly with the proposed increased number of children in the service.</p> <p>(8)(a) The registered provider ensures that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times when the service was in operation.</p>
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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*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The three care rooms are adequately resourced with play equipment and materials which are laid out to facilitate play opportunities and experiences for the children in attendance. The play materials are stored on low-level shelving which are accessible to the children in each care room. The established interest areas include home corners, construction areas, arts and crafts areas, areas with specialist Montessori equipment and libraries. After the pre-school children accommodated in Room 1 and Room 3 have left the service by 1.30pm each day, all play materials and equipment provided by the early years service are either removed from these two rooms or made inaccessible by turning the shelving units in to face the walls, to facilitate two separate school age services to use the rooms when the early years service is not in operation. Both school age services store their own play materials in locked storage units in Room 1 and Room 3 and these materials are not accessible to the pre-school children.</p>
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	<p>Play equipment including scooters and other ride-on toys, a tray top activity table and rocking toys are stored in a locked shed in the outdoor play area to facilitate play experiences outside.</p> <p>(b) A rest area was available in the three care rooms with soft mats and cushions provided to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities during the day if required. Sleep mats are available in the event that a child may need or wish to sleep during their attendance in the service.</p> <p>(3)(a) The children attending Sticky Fingers Montessori have access to the hard surfaced area to the side and rear of the former primary school on which the prefabricated Room 3 is positioned. Portable wooden fencing is available in a locked shed and the inspector was informed that this is positioned to enclose this outdoor space at either end, in order to secure the area when the pre-school children are playing outside. A range of age-appropriate outdoor play equipment was provided in the locked storage shed to support outdoor play opportunities for the children. Additionally, Sticky Fingers Montessori is facilitated to access the adjoining all-weather pitches operated by the community centre, a theatre space and a spacious activities hall in the former primary school and also the main activities hall in the newer adjoining community centre when these spaces are not in use by others. Cones, footballs, hula hoops and ribbons are included in the play materials provided by the early years service to support the pre-school children to engage in physical activity and outdoor play in these 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:

The requirement has been met.

Parents provide snacks from home. The inspector was informed that the main snack is served mid-morning and the option of having fruit or a second snack offered to the children who remain in the service on a part-time basis. Drinking water is available and accessible to the children in the individual care rooms.

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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.

There are no hazards identified that would impact the health, safety or welfare of the pre-school children attending the service.

- The water temperature in the sanitary accommodation in the service does not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduces the risk of scalding for the pre-school children. The inspector was informed that the warm water supply is thermostatically controlled.
- The blind cords in the service are appropriately restricted.
- Cleaning agents are inaccessible to children.
- The children attending Room 1 and Room 2 are accompanied by a staff member when using the toilet as the sanitary accommodation for these two care rooms is located on communal corridors in the building which are accessed by members of the public delivering and attending programmes in the community centre and are also accessed by employees of the community centre. The pre-school children only access the ladies toilets on the premises.
- Netting dividers are used to enclose one of the three all-weather pitches when this area is being accessed by the pre-school children, to ensure the children are in closer proximity to the early years staff members at all times and thereby facilitate appropriate supervision in the smaller space.
- During the inspection staff members demonstrated an awareness of the service's requirement to balance the benefits of risky play against potential injury, particularly on the steps and raised pathway which run along the rear of the building, in the area used for outdoor play.

### 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.

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	<p>(1) Six staff members hold in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training, ensuring that a person with FAR training is immediately available at all times to children attending the service.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is available in each care room and these are stored in accessible and conspicuous locations out of the reach of children.</p>
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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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) A record is maintained of the fire drills conducted in the service on a monthly basis.</p> <p>(b) Records are available showing that the fire fighting equipment was serviced in March 2023 and the smoke detection system was certified as having been serviced on 04/08/2023.</p> <p>(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the premises.</p>
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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>An insurance quotation for increasing to 59 the number of pre-school children covered in the early years service's insurance policy was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. 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 provider's compliance with Regulation 28.</p>
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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) The premises and outdoor area appear to be in good condition and well-maintained.

(b) The care room doors are appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access.

The outdoor play areas are mainly surrounded by the service walls and permanent fencing, with portable fencing put in place to secure areas when pre-school children are playing outdoors.

#### (c) Lighting

- Windows and glass panelled doors provide the care rooms with natural lighting which is supplemented by artificial lighting.

#### Heating

- The service is heated by means of a central heating system.

#### Ventilation

- Ventilation in the care rooms is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents. Mechanical ventilation is provided in the sanitary accommodation.

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

(e) The service is equipped with adequate sanitary facilities for the increased proposed total number of 59 children.

The children attending Room 1 have access to 2 toilets with 2 accompanying wash hand basins in the ladies toilets down the corridor from this care room.

The children attending Room 2 have access to 4 toilets with 3 accompanying wash hand basins in the separate ladies toilets down the corridor from this care room.

The children attending Room 3 have access to 2 toilets with 2 accompanying wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation off the hallway which adjoins the care room in this prefabricated unit.

Nappy changing facilities are not provided for pre-school children attending Sticky Fingers Montessori as the service policy requires that all children must be toilet trained prior to commencing attendance at the service.

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A toilet and wash hand basin on the premises is designated for use by the staff members.

### 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) Adequate clear floor space is available for the safety, play and movement of the 59 pre-school children proposed to attend the service.

(2) The minimum space regulatory requirement can be met for the proposed number of 59 pre-school children to be accommodated in the service. The registered provider is aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7.

- The clear floor space in Room 1 measured 45.9 square metres.
- The clear floor space in Room 2 measured 36.3 square metres.
- The clear floor space in Room 3 measured 42.9 square metres.