

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015GY044

Name of Service Bright Sparks Montessori Preschool

Address of Service: Radharc Na Mara National School, Mervue, Galway City, Co. Galway. H91 A3H2.

Email Address: ainecrowe@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms. Aine Crowe

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

Proposed change: Increase number of children to 66.
Change in number of staff from 5 to 6.

Proposed Number of Children: 66

Recommended Change Following Inspection: All changes to be approved fully

Registered change: Change in the number of children that can be accommodated from 44 to 66.
Change in number of staff from 5 to 6.

Date of Inspection: 1 1 0 9 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: Mr. S. Meehan.

Title: Early Years Inspector.

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor-Green Corridor), Merlin Park Hospital, Galway.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time Service for 66 Children
Date of Registration	22 nd September 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).

Description of Service	The service operates a sessional care programme from 8.50 am to 1.30 pm. The service is in Mervue national school, in an urban area of Galway city known as Mervue. The service is registered to cater for pre-school children aged 2 to 5 years of age from Monday to Friday.
Premises	The service has 3 allocated playroom with its own entrance to the rear of Mervue national school. There are also adequate sanitary facilities, nappy changing area and a self-contained kitchenette. The service has a large enclosed outdoor area to the side of the service and access to a tarmac area.
Staffing	The service proposes to have the registered provider in charge and another adult who can deputies with an award in Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, in Early Childhood Care and Education.
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:

(1)(a)

The requirement has been met, there is a designated person in charge, the registered provider and a deputy manager rostered on the premises.

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:

(1) The registered provider proposes to maintain the minimum ratio of adults to children. The registered provider proposes that there will be a max of 22 pre-school children being cared for by 2 staff members in the proposed playroom.

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There are adequate and suitable facilities in the proposed playroom, with defined interest areas provided for play. The registered provider intends to develop these interest areas further depending on the child's interests, emerging needs learning stories, and developing themes. On the day of inspection, play equipment and materials were inviting and easily accessible in the proposed Giraffe playroom.

(b) The service will be catering for children over 2 years of age and stackable beds are available for rest and sleep.

(3)(a) The service had an outdoor play area to the side of the premises with a large, secured area and they also have use of a tarmac area. There is a selection of sports equipment, ride on toys and special interest areas.

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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:

A healthy eating policy is in place and children will bring their own snacks and main hot meal to the service. A drinks station will be accessible to children. There will be a designated fridge for the safe storage of perishable food items. The registered provider advised the inspector of a system where all food and drinks brought from the child's home will be identifiable to the child.

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 main entrance had a buzzer system to the pre-school which was secured to prevent the public having access to children and ensuring children could not exit the service unsupervised.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- Cables were out of reach of children or secured.
- The registered provider had a fridge for the storage of perishable items from children's lunch boxes.
- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels. Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43° C to facilitate hygienic hand washing without risk of scalding the children was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- There was a cleaning schedule available and a sample cleaning record.
- The doors into the staff areas and storage areas had a system of security and were thereby inaccessible to the children.
- All cleaning agents and equipment were stored inaccessible and out of children's reach.
- The manager proposed to complete a daily risk assessment.
- A health and safety policy was available which included a risk assessment system.
- The service risk assessment system ensured toys and equipment were checked to ensure that they were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.
- The registered provider advised that the outdoor play equipment would be cleaned after each child's use and prior to each child's use - with documented records maintained. A sample documented risk assessment of the outdoor play areas was available for review.
- There were no pits or ponds in the outdoor pre-school area to cause any risk of danger to pre-school children.

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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 has been met.

(1) One staff working in the pre-school service have a current first aid responder qualification and five have first aid training.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible conspicuous position in the proposed playroom.

(b) The first aid box was readily available with content items in date.

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) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills, the last was carried out on the 14/08/2023.

(b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file. Records indicated that the firefighting equipment was annual serviced on the 06/09/2023. Records indicated that the fire detection system was annual serviced in 25/08/2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed.

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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 service's had insurance for a sessional service for up to 66 children and included the following –

- public liability insurance.
- insurance against fire and theft.
- buildings insurance.

The insurance was valid until the 27 March 2024.

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 registered provider of the service confirmed that there were no known structural defects.
- (b) The proposed outdoor play area and pre-school play area were safe and secure.
- (c) The playroom and sanitary areas were well lit and ventilated. The lighting was both natural and artificial. The warm water in the proposed designated sanitary area was maintained at a safe temperature and no greater than 43°C.
- (d) The proposed playroom had play and work equipment that was clean and in good repair. Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from the pre-school children in designated inaccessible secured storage areas. There was a proposed cleaning schedule available for inspection. From observation, the proposed play area was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- (e) The proposed playroom had two a designated children's toilets and wash hand basins. Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in designated dispensers were within easy access to a pre-school child. Foot pedal lidded bins were provided in the sanitary area. Additionally in the sessional service there were designated adult toilets with designated wash hand basins.

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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.
- (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.
- (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 has been met.

(1) and (2)

Adequate floor space is provided in the proposed playroom for the free movement of children to work and play.

(3) & (4)(a)(b)

The measurement of the proposed playroom room floor space is 53 sq. meters and on a sessional basis 1.818 square metres of clear floor space per child is required.

The service can have a maximum of 22 children on a sessional basis in the proposed new playroom.

Minimum Space Requirements		
Full Day Care Service or Part-time Day Care Service		
(1)	(2)	(3)
	AGE RANGE	CLEAR FLOOR SPACE
1	0 – 1 year	3.5 square metres
2	1-2 years	2.8 square metres
3	2- 3 years	2.35 square metres
4	3- 6 years	2.3 square metres