

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015GY131

Name of Service: Little Angels Childcare

Address of Service: Caheroyan, Athenry, Co. Galway.
H65 X211

Email Address: littleangelsathenry@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms. Siobhan Quinn

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

Proposed change: Change in type of service from indoor only to indoor outdoor service. Increase in number of children from 32 to 43. Age range of children - previously 2 years and 6 months to 5 years change to 2 to 6 years of age.

Proposed Number of Children: 43 children.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Indoor/Outdoor Service, accommodating 43 children at any one time, age profile 2-6 years.

Registered change: Indoor/Outdoor Service, accommodating 43 children at any one time, age profile 2-6 years.

Date of Inspection:	1	0	0	8	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: H. Heagney

Title: Early Years Inspector

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

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

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Registration Status:	Part-Time/Sessional/ Indoor/Outdoor Service, accommodating 43 children at any one time, age profile 2-6 years.
Date of Registration	25 th August 2023

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	This privately operated service proposes to cater for a maximum of 43 children, at any one time. The service proposes to continue to offer a part time service from 8.00hrs to 13.00hrs from Monday to Friday. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional care pre-school programmes will also be offered. The pre-school proposes to cater for children aged between 2 to 6 years of age. A child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on emerging interests and an enquiry-based programme with a Montessori element is proposed to be provided.
Premises	<p>The purpose of this fit for purpose inspection is also to change the type of service from an indoor only to an indoor-outdoor service.</p> <p>This pre-school proposes to continue to operate two playrooms in a detached bungalow in the outskirts of Athenry, Co. Galway. The indoor playrooms will be named the 'Butterfly room' which it is proposed will cater for a maximum of 10 children and the 'Colourful Petals room', which it is proposed will cater for a maximum of 22 children. It is proposed to have a designated outdoor only sessional service with an outdoor shelter classroom namely 'Let them Grow' which will cater for a maximum of 11 children.</p> <p>There is a kitchenette / office. Quiet rest areas are provided in each of the pre-school rooms and the outdoor only service to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he/she chooses to. There are sleep mats for any child attending the part time service, requiring sleep provision.</p> <p>There are secure outdoor play areas to the rear and side of the premises for children to have fresh air and a range of play experiences.</p>
Staffing	The registered provider was on the premises on the day of the inspection. It is proposed that the registered provider will act as childcare relief and work in the service. It is proposed an additional five staff will work in the premises / work directly with the

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	<p>children. All proposed staff including the registered provider, hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 or over, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.</p>
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	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was 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 was met.

There will be a proposed designated person in charge and a proposed named person available to deputise in the service.

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)—*
 (c) *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 was met.

(1)

It is proposed that there will be an adequate number of staff working directly with the pre-school children.

It is proposed that there will be a maximum of

- 22 children at any one time, in the Colourful Petals room,
- 10 children at any one time, in the Butterfly room,
- 11 children at any one time, in the Let them Grow, outdoor only service.

It is proposed that there will be six staff, who hold at hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education working directly with the proposed children.

(8)(c)

It is proposed that the registered provider will not operate the service 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.*
- (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 was met.

(1)(a)

The design, organisation, and resourcing of the indoor and outdoor environment would be able to support each child’s wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service.

The playrooms and outdoor only class were designed and arranged to

- maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter,
- divided into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support proposed children’s play, development, and learning,
- give all proposed children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development.

The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was thereby readily accessible to the proposed pre-school children.

The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, they were designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.

Indoor rooms - Butterfly and Colourful Petals

- Play materials and equipment were developmentally appropriate. In the playrooms, items included a selection of garages, stables, puppets/ puppet theatres, stickle bricks, train set, cars, blocks, puzzles, jigsaws, stacking materials, musical instruments, and castles. There were dolls, cots, farm animals, and transport vehicles. There were hairdressing / vanity areas. There was a selection of art and craft materials including paper, crayons, paints, pencils, and shape cutters. There were book / library areas. There were construction tables with hammers and utensils. There were kitchens with teapots, pots, pans, shopping baskets, and food item. There were shops with real-world items. There was a sensory / nature area. There were Montessori sensorial natural materials that were primarily self-correcting including a pink tower, pins, suckers, rods, cylinder blocks, knobbed cylinders, letters, opposites, fabrics, cubes, insets, sensory bottles, mats, shapes, beads, timers,

connectors, counters, fidgets, fine motor, gross motor, threading, matching cards, pegs, dressing frames and the alphabet were available for the children.

- Displayed on the walls were educational posters, visual aids, artwork, birthdays, and a family tree.

Outdoor class - Let them Grow.

- Play materials and equipment in the sheltered outdoor classroom were developmentally appropriate. There were hoppers, a dolls house with small world items, shapes, blocks, musical instruments, zoo and farm animals, little people, telephones, and balls. There was a kitchen / shop with a shopping trolley, pots, pans, and kitchen utensils. There was a number water squirting toilet game. There were tables, chairs, and picnic tables.
- Displayed on the walls were my first numbers, my first alphabet, and my first colours. There was also a large, mounted blackboard, ribbons, and wind decorations.

(1)(b)

Rest / quiet areas were provided in the Butterfly, Colourful Petals playrooms and Let them Grow - outdoor service, in the form of a bean bags, soft seating, mats, and cushions to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to. There were sleep mats available in the pre-school service for any child attending the part time service requiring sleep provision.

(3)(a)

Outdoor area

The registered provider advised that the outdoor area was an extension of the indoor environment and linked with the learning that goes on inside.

The registered provider advised that the children in the Butterfly and Colourful Petals room would have the opportunity to be outside as often as possible, in all weather conditions.

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The children attending the Let them Grow outdoor only session would wear sunscreen and or suitable weather clothing.

The outdoor play areas were to the rear and side of the premises and consisted of a combination tarmacadam, concrete, and artificial grass surfaces.

The outdoor area was secured by walls, fencing, and gates.

On the day of inspection, items included seating, planters, a bridge, hoppers, a musical board, an easel, a rocker car, rockers, a sand unit, a water basin, a climbing frame, tyres, a slide, rockers, picnic table, a house, transport vehicles, traffic lights, a petrol pump, ride on bicycles, push cars, boxes of toys, balancing beams, watering cans, and an activity table with links/ blocks. There were two kitchens and a selection of bubble makers.

There were mounted blackboards and a shatter proof shaped tree mirror. There was a mounted musical activity centre.

Additional play materials and equipment were stored in designated storage area and rotated on a seasonal basis.

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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 service has a healthy eating policy.

It is proposed that parents and guardians will provide food for their child’s snack time.

The registered provider is proposing that children attending the service on a part time basis have two meals, supplied by the parents and guardians. The registered provider will ensure that each meal will have two food groups. The registered provider will have a supply of food in a pantry store in the kitchenette / office, for any child requiring additional food.

A drinks table will be available in each playroom and in the outdoor only service to allow the children the opportunity to ‘self-serve’ their drinks.

Perishables items from children’s lunch boxes will be stored in a designated fridge.

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:

General Safety

- There was a buzzer access system into the main entrance front door.
- The staff only areas, kitchenette, office, storage areas were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- The external play areas were secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance were kept for all of the children, that will be attending the pre-school.

- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted and secured to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- The electrical heating / air conditioning system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing without risk of scalding the children, was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- Windows were fitted with restrictive access devices / safety systems. There was a window film vinyl covering on the glass doors as a safety precaution.
- There were records of a regular pest control system.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There was a documented risk assessment system for the indoor and outdoor play areas. The service had a risk assessment system for checking that toys and equipment were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.
- The registered provider clearly identified to the early years' inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.
- There were no pits or ponds in the outdoor area to cause any risk of danger to the proposed pre-school children.

Infection Control

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The registered provider advised that the outdoor play equipment would be cleaned prior to/ after a child's use, with documented records maintained.
- A refrigerator was provided in the hallway / lobby for the storage of perishable foods.

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- The Butterfly and Colourful Pedals rooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows and doors left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- The passive ventilations covers in the sanitary areas were kept in a clean condition.
- The registered provider had a cleaning schedule template and cleaning records for the materials, equipment, and furnishings.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Four staff who will be working in the proposed pre-school service have a current paediatric first aid qualification. An additional two staff had documentary evidence of booking their first aid training for August 2023.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid wall mounted cabinet in the hallway / lobby and a box in the outdoor classroom were available and in an easily accessible conspicuous position.
- (b) The first aid cabinet and box were readily available, with content items within 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 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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills.</p> <p>(b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file.</p> <p>Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated July 2023.</p> <p>Records indicated that the last annual maintenance certificate for the smoke and fire detection system was dated 27th of February 2023.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the Butterfly room, Colourful Petals room and the outdoor Let them Grow outdoor classroom.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The service’s had an insurance with an expiry date 28th of March 2024 which was for a part time care service for 43 children and included the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public liability insurance, • insurance against fire and theft, • buildings insurance, • insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.
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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) From a visual inspection the indoor rooms were of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The indoor rooms and the outdoor classroom and play areas were safe and secure.
- (c) There was natural lighting in the Butterfly and Colourful Petals rooms with windows the outer walls.

The proposed indoor playrooms were well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors.

The artificial lighting provided in the indoor playrooms was shatter proof.

The electric heating / air conditioning system had a thermostatically controlled thermostat to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C for the indoor rooms. On the day of inspection, the indoor room temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.

The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature of 35.2°C and the registered provider advised it would be no greater than 43°C.

- (d) In the proposed indoor playrooms and the outdoor classroom, the play and work equipment were clean and in good repair.

Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from / inaccessible to the pre-school children.

From observation, the furnished indoor and outdoor classroom were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.

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	<p>There were four designated children’s toilets with four designated children’s wash hand basins. One of the four children’s toilets had a direct entry access from the outdoor area.</p> <p>There was a designated adult only toilet with a designated wash hand basins in the pre-school.</p> <p>There was a wall mounted nappy changing unit and an airtight sealable bin for the disposal of nappies. There was a supply of disposal aprons and gloves for staff involved in the nappy changing procedure.</p> <p>Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in designated dispensers were within easy access to a pre-school child.</p> <p>Foot pedal lidded bins were provided in the sanitary areas.</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.*
- (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.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed indoor playrooms and outdoor classroom for the free movement of children to work and play. (2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children. (3) The measurement of the proposed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Butterfly room floor space was 17.85 square meters, – Colourful Petal room floor space was 42.44 square meters, – Let them Grow - outdoor service, adequate space was available for the work, play and movement of the proposed children attending. thus, ensuring
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- a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service and
- a minimum of 2.35 square metres of clear floor space will be available for children aged 2 to 3 years, proposing to attend the part time service.
- a minimum of 2.3 spare metres of clear floor space will be available for children aged 3 to 6 years, proposing to attend the part time service.

A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are no more than 22 children are in a room in the service at any one time.