

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015KE100

**Name of Service** Scallywags Montessori

**Address of Service:** Carbury Village, Carbury, Co Kildare, W91 XW22

**Email Address:** carabegcarbury@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Rachel Considine

<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>	

**Proposed change:** To add on an additional part time service to the existing sessional service and change the hours of operation to 09:00 to 14:00

**Proposed Number of Children:** 30 (Max 23 Part-time)

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Part time & Sessional care from 9:00 14:00

**Registered change:** Additional service type from sessional to part-time & sessional  
Change in hours from 09:00 – 12:00 & 12:30 – 15:30 to 09:00 – 14:00

**Date of Inspection:** 2 9 0 9 2 0 2 5

**Inspection undertaken by:** F Carty

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road Naas, Co Kildare

### Rationale for Inspection:

#### Proposed Change of Circumstance

The provider requests to add an additional part time service and extend the hours of operation from 9:00 – 12:00 and 12.30 – 15.30pm for sessional services to 9:00 to 14:00 for part time care

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	<b>Registered Part-time &amp; Sessional Service for 30 (Max 23 Part-Time) Children</b>
<b>Date of Registration</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>

### 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>	Sallywags Montessori is an existing sessional childcare service currently operating from 9.00am to 12.00pm and 12.30pm and 3. 30pm. The service is located in the village of Carbury a rural area in Co. Kildare. The registered provider is seeking to change the type of service offered from sessional only to part time.
<b>Premises</b>	The service is located in a purpose-built premises located to the rear of the registered provider's home. There are two care rooms and associated sanitary accommodation. There is a large garden to the front of the building. The children proposing to attend on a part time basis will be accommodated in both care rooms.
<b>Staffing</b>	The additional part time service will be staffed initially by two adults including the registered provider who is on the premises at all times. Certification was provided to confirm that adults had childcare qualifications at minimum level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
<b>Methodology</b>	<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</p>

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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	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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes 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:

(1)(a)

The requirement has been met. There is a designated person in charge and an adult currently working in the existing service will be able 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)—

(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:

(1)

An adequate number of adults will work directly in the pre-school service as it is proposed to care for a maximum of 23 pre-school children on a part time basis aged between 2 years to 6 years between the hours of 9.00am and 2.00pm with four adults always present.

(8)

(c) Not applicable.

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.*
- (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*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

**Requirement met:**

- (1)
- (a)
- Rooms 1 and 2 are for the sole use of the preschool children. Both rooms were equipped with toys and play equipment on open low-level shelving in areas of interest which included a home area, cosy area, construction and small world play. Low level tables and chairs were provided in the playroom for pre-school children to engage in tabletop activities.
- (b) Both care rooms had a rest area available. A child sized sofa, mat and cushions were available for preschool children to rest and opt out of activities as required.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(2) An outdoor play area which was safely and securely fenced off was available. There were three separate areas one dedicated to planting and growing vegetables and flowers. A second area with swings, a mud kitchen, seesaws and construction equipment. There was a large sand pit with construction toys. An area with football nets and a basketball net was also available. The main area had stone surfacing. Access was gained from a path leading from the service and the area was surrounded by perimeter fencing which prevented unauthorised access and egress.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Not applicable.

### 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.

The parents/guardian of the children attending the service will provide all food for the children who attend on both a sessional and part time basis. Extra snacks and fruit will be available on site if required. Refrigerators were available to store perishable items. A healthy eating policy was available and contained information on acceptable foods and foods not permitted in the service.

### 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 doors at the front entrance to the service had a lock system in place to secure the service against unauthorised access and to prevent unsupervised exit of pre-school

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

children from the service. Children will be accepted into the service from the front entrance door and will be taken to the playroom by staff members during operational hours of the service. It was also noted that pre-school children will be collected from the front door by parents/guardians. The front door had a high-level lock in place and could only be opened from the inside.

All toys and furniture were in good condition and free from pinch and crush points and sharp edges. The registered provider had sole use of both the building and the outdoor play area for the preschool service. There was built in storage facilities available for storage throughout the service. Cleaning schedules were in place, and the service was in a clean condition throughout.

### 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) There was evidence that three people including the registered provider had current certification in First Aid Responder. Evidence was provided to the inspector on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box was provided. There was signage to indicate the location of first aid box. The first aid box was available to the children always attending the service.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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)</p> <p>(a) A recording system was provided to maintain a record of monthly fire drills as conducted in the service.</p> <p>(b) The maintenance records for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available they were last serviced on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was posted in the communal hallway. A fire assembly point was located to the rear of the property. An additional assembly point was available to the front of the property.</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>The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 30 children in daily attendance.</p> <p>Insurance for the service expires on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p>
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# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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) There was no evidence of dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings. Windows in the care rooms appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and were both positioned and opened above child height. The registered provider confirmed that there are no structural defects with the premises.

(b) The heavy-duty floor covering throughout the rooms was well fitted and in a good state of repair and maintenance. The front exit to the building guarded against both unsupervised exit of children and unauthorised access to the building. The building was not used for any other purpose unrelated to childcare during operational hours of the service.

(c) The openable windows in the playrooms which were located above child height ensured both adequate natural day lighting and ventilation in the care rooms. All ceiling light fittings in rooms were covered with shatterproof diffusers. Heating was provided with thermostatically controlled electric central heating system. The temperature recorded in the care rooms was between the recommended 18° Celsius and 22° Celsius.

(d) All walls and ceilings were finished with a washable paint and were smooth surfaced for easy cleaning purposes.

(e) There were three toilets and wash hand basins located in the service for the pre-school children in daily attendance. The water supply to wash hand basins was

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

thermostatically controlled. Mechanical ventilation was available in all sanitary facilities. Additional toilets were available for staff.

### 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 sessional pre-school service, and
  - 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).
- (5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) An area of 22.44 sqm in Room 1 provided adequate floor space for a maximum of 10 children attending on a part time basis as proposed by the registered provider. An area of 30.36sqm in Room 2 was available for a maximum of 13 children attending on a part time basis.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Not applicable.