

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D:** TU2015KE102

**Name of Service** Little Scholars

**Address of Service:** Unit 2, Dowling's Car Park, Prosperous, Naas, Co. Kildare

**Email Address:** [emma.littlescholars20@gmail.com](mailto:emma.littlescholars20@gmail.com)

**Name of Registered Provider:** Una Dunne

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed change:** The service proposes to increase the number of children attending from 54 to 65 and change the age profile of children attending from 1-6 years old to 2-6 years old.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 65

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** The service has capacity to increase the number of children attending to 65 based on the room measurements carried out on inspection.

**Registered change:** Change in number of children to be accommodated from 54 to 65  
Change in age profile from 1 – 6 to 2 – 6 years

**Date of Inspection:** 2 3 0 8 2 0 2 3

**Inspection undertaken by:** Fiona Maher

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre  
Ballymore Eustace Road Naas Co. Kildare, W91X38W.

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Full Day Care Service for 65 Children

**Date of Registration** 29<sup>th</sup> August 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>Little Scholars is a full day care service currently providing care and education to pre-school children aged 1-6 years old.</p> <p>The service opens from 07:30am to 18:30pm Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year.</p> <p>The proposed change, as advised by the registered provider, is to increase the number of children currently attending from 54 to 65 and change the age profile of the children attending from 1-6 years old to 2-6 years old.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service is located in a purpose built two storey premises to the rear of a commercial premises in the village of Prosperous Co. Kildare. Four pre-school rooms, two of which are located on the first floor, a kitchen and an office are provided. An enclosed play area is available to the front of the premises.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The service employs 10 staff including the registered provider and one chef. The childcare staff working directly with the pre-school children in the service have a qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education which is recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.</p>
<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 responses received for reasons including clarity; completeness; and compliance with</p>

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	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, person in charge, staff and children who were 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.  (1) (a)  There is a designated a person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
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### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.  (1)  The registered provider has ensured that there is, at all times, an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
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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

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The current pre-school rooms are constructively planned environments that are adequately resourced with play and learning equipment and materials to cater for the proposed increase in the number of children to attend aged from 2-6 years old. Low level child sized tables and chairs are provided in all rooms to enable children sit comfortably for meals and tabletop activities.

The outdoor play area has an artificial grass surface and is equipped with various play resources and equipment to promote physical play and games. The area is divided into various interest areas including a wooden climbing frame, football area, mud kitchen, and planting box; an area with sail shades provides shelter from the sun/rain.

(b)

Child sized couches are available in the pre-school rooms should a child require to sit and rest during the day. Low level beds are available for children who may require a period of sleep while attending on a part time or full time basis; bed linen is stored in individual containers.

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	<p>(3)(a)</p> <p>The outside play area was safe, suitable and secure, enclosed by a high boundary wall and a secured gate which was the exit point from the play area to evacuate to the fire assembly point in the adjacent car park.</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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The service has a healthy eating policy in place.</p> <p>The service provides all meals and snacks which are freshly prepared in the service daily by the chef. A weekly menu was displayed in the hallway outlining a varied and nutritious diet.</p>
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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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The main entrance door to the service is electronically secure and controlled by staff to prevent any pre-school child from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school room.</p> <p>Storage was available for the safe storage of cleaning products, equipment and staff and children’s belongings.</p> <p>All fire exits were unobstructed and easily recognisable.</p>
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	<p>There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in the pre-school rooms, sanitary and nappy changing areas.</p> <p>Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted dispensers, were available for hygienic hand washing and drying in the sanitary areas and in each pre-school room.</p> <p>There is a procedure in place for the safe escort of children when using the stairs, this was confirmed by the person in charge.</p>
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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)  
Current certification in relation to First Aid Response (FAR) was available for staff members currently working in the service.

(2)(a)(b)  
Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and accessible to children at all times; they were located in conspicuous positions on the ground floor and on the first floor of the service.

### Part VI – Safety

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### 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1)(a) Documentation was available for recording monthly fire drills. The most recent fire drill was conducted 22 August 2023.</p> <p>(b) There was a maintenance record available of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm dated December 2022 and 27 July 2023 respectively.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was clearly displayed on 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>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 providers compliance with Regulation 28.</p> <p>The registered provider had evidence of insurance cover for 70 children. The insurance cover was valid until 27 March 2024.</p>
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### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

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### 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)

Visually, the premises is maintained in a good state of repair.

(b)

The main entrance door to the service is electronically secure and controlled by staff to prevent any pre-school child from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school room.

A high level boundary wall and secured gate surrounds the perimeter of the outdoor play area to the front of the service.

(c)

There are openable windows to naturally ventilate all pre-school rooms and mechanical ventilation in place in the sanitary accommodation.

Natural daylight was provided by windows in all rooms.

Supplementary artificial fluorescent strip lighting with protective covering is provided in the two upstairs pre-school rooms and sanitary areas. LED covered ceiling lights provides the lighting in the downstairs pre-school rooms and covered lighting fixtures are in the adjacent sanitary accommodation.

The accommodation is heated by gas fired central heating with wall mounted radiators located throughout the service that can be thermostatically controlled. A service contract is in place for the boiler heating system.

(d)

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	<p>Cleaning schedules are in place in the service and the premises and its environs were clean and well maintained. A pest control contract is in place.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>Adequate sanitary facilities are provided in the service including nappy changing facilities.</p> <p>Ten toilets and one nappy change area with dedicated wash hand basins are available in the service to accommodate the 65 children proposed to attend the service. Further wash hand basins are also located in the care rooms.</p> <p>One disabled access toilet provides the staff sanitary accommodation on the premises.</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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1),(2)</p> <p>Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement for 65 pre-school children proposed to attend the service aged 2-6 years old as demonstrated below,</p>			
	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
Clear Floor Space	33m <sup>2</sup>	34.7m <sup>2</sup>	31.9m <sup>2</sup>	55.5m <sup>2</sup>