

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015KE183

Name of Service Bee Hive Montessori

Address of Service: The Kildare Maze, Ballinafagh, Prosperous, Co Kildare, W91AD76

Email Address: thebeehivemontessori@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Tara Dunne

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

Proposed change: The service proposes to increase the number of children from 33 to 41. Operate an additional morning session from 09:30 to 12:30 and change the number of staff from 5 to 8 staff members.

Proposed Number of Children: 41

Recommended Change Following Inspection: The proposed change is met.

Registered change: Change in Number of Children from 33 to 41 children
Change in Number of Staff from 5 to 8 staff
Additional morning session from 09:30 to 12:30

Date of Inspection:	0	6	0	2	2	0	2	5
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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 registered provider wishes to increase the numbers of children attending from 33 to 41 children in the service. The children will be accommodated in an additional room namely, the Cocoon Room.

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part-Time & Sessional Service for 41 Children
Date of Registration	14 th February 2025

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	<p>Bee Hive Montessori is an existing part time and sessional childcare service currently operating from 09:15 to 14:15 and 13:00-16:00hrs.</p> <p>The service is located in a rural area in Co. Kildare. The registered provider is seeking to increase the numbers of children attending the service from 33 to 41 children daily and to Add a morning session from 09:30-12:30 and increase the number of staff from 5 to 8. There is parking for cars located to the front of the building. The registered provider has the sole use of the building during term time for 38 weeks of the year.</p>
Premises	<p>The premises are located in an adapted premises and includes 3 playrooms, the proposed new Grasshoppers room and existing Caterpillar room and Butterfly room. There is suitable sanitary accommodation for children and adults. There are two outdoor play areas one is located directly off the proposed new care room, and one is located to the rear of the premises. The outdoor areas are secure with fencing. The proposed additional children will be accommodated in the Cocoon room on a sessional basis.</p>
Staffing	<p>The service will be staffed by six 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.</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>

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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 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)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(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 30 pre-school children on a sessional basis aged between 2 years to 6 years between the hours of 9.00am and 12.30pm with three adults always present.

(8)

(b) (c) Not applicable.

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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.*
- (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)
The Grasshoppers room will be for the sole use of the preschool children. It was 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) The care room had a rest area available. A soft mat and cushions were available for preschool children to rest and opt out of activities as required.
- (2) An outdoor play area which was safely and securely fenced off was available. Available toys included a seesaw, a work bench, tyres and balance beams and a stoned area for trucks. The main area had bark surfacing. Access was gained directly from the

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	<p>care room and the area was surrounded by perimeter fencing which prevented unauthorised access and egress.</p> <p>(3) Not applicable.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable.</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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The parents or guardians will provide all food for the children who attend on both a sessional and part time basis. All perishable foods will be stored in a refrigerator. A healthy eating policy was available and contained information on acceptable foods and foods not permitted in the service.</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.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The doors at both the front and back 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 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 after sessional hours by parents/guardians. The front door had a high-level lock in place and could only be opened from the inside.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Cleaning schedules were in place and the service was in a clean condition throughout.</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) There was evidence that two 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.

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) A recording system was provided to maintain a record of monthly fire drills as conducted in the service.

(b) The maintenance record for firefighting equipment was available they were last serviced during July 2024. A maintenance record for smoke alarms confirmed that a maintenance service was conducted on the 26th March 2024.

(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.

Part VI – Safety

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Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 33 children in daily attendance. Insurance for the service expires on the 27th March 2025.

An insurance quotation which includes the proposed additional children was submitted to the Registration Office prior to the inspection.

The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the increase in the number of children attending the service.

Registration of the service is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

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 providers 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. Both the front and back exits 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 playroom 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.

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(e) There were four 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 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) 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).
- (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 15.68 sqm in the Grasshoppers room provided adequate floor space for the proposed additional 8 pre-school children in daily attendance on a sessional and part time basis.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) The area of the care room ensured adequate floor space for the proposed maximum number of pre-school children in daily attendance on a sessional basis.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Not applicable.