

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015KE199

**Name of Service:** Shining Stars Academy Ltd.

**Address of Service:** Coney Avenue  
Coneyboro  
Athy  
Co. Kildare  
R14KX65

**Email Address:** [christine.bowden13@gmail.com](mailto:christine.bowden13@gmail.com)

**Name of Registered Provider:** Christine Bowden

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

**Proposed change:** Change in age range of children attending from 1-6 years to 6 months - 6 years.  
Revised room layout and addition of a larger sleep room to accommodate the proposed change.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 80

**Registered change:** Change in age profile of children from 1 – 6 years to 6 months – 6 years

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	2	0	2	2	0	2	2
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**Inspection undertaken by:** Fiona Maher

**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

Change in age range of children attending from 1-6 years to 6 months-6 years. Internal modifications made to accommodate proposed change.

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day / Part Time / Sessional Service for 80 children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2022

### Authority to Inspect

<b>Description of Service</b>	Shining Stars is a private full day care service that has been in operation since 2015. A service is currently provided to children aged between 1 and 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 08:00 and 18:30 hours including the provision of a sessional service for 38 weeks of the year. A school age service is also provided.
<b>Premises</b>	The premises is a purpose built detached, single storey bungalow located in a residential housing estate in Athy. Part of the premises includes a log cabin attached to the rear of the building and a modular unit in the garden area. Five pre-school rooms, a sleep room, kitchen and an office are provided.
<b>Staffing</b>	There are eighteen adults employed in the service. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. All adults employed and working directly with children hold qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education.
<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 two themes; Governance, and Safety.</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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wished 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.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met. The service has designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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 not met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The registered provider has appointed two staff members to work in the proposed pre-school room to ensure the required adult:child ratios are maintained.

(8)(b)

Not applicable as this is not a childminding service.

(c)

Not applicable as this is not a sessional service.

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.*

<p><b>Requirement met:</b></p>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The proposed internal modifications to the baby room presents a bright, spacious and constructively planned environment that is well resourced to cater for the proposed age range of children from 6 months old to attend this care room. An outdoor play area is available on the premises.</p> <p>(b) The sleep room was part of the redesigned care room in a quiet area separate from the play and learning environment. The entrance to the sleep area was secured with a low-level gate and therefore not accessible to the children in the care room. Four standard cots were provided and were sufficient for the number of children less than 2 years of age requiring sleep in a cot. A comfortable rest area was also provided within the care room for children to sit and rest comfortably if required.</p> <p>(4) A suitable secure area is provided for all children to play outdoors and is equipped with suitable age-appropriate toys and play materials. A sheltered area provides for play activities during inclement and hot weather. Further play areas are currently being developed to the front and rear of the premises and will include a dedicated play space for the children attending the baby room.</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:

The requirement has been met.

A healthy eating policy is in place in the service.

All food and snacks are provided by the service. The main hot meal is freshly cooked and prepared in another service operated by the registered provider and is close by.

Parents will provide prepared infant formula if required and a fridge is available in the kitchen for storage.

### 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.

Window blind cords were secured out of reach of the children in the pre-school room. The fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed. A cot with wheels is available to transport children in the event of an emergency evacuation occurring.

All cupboards and drawers were fitted with child proof locks and cleaning agents were stored out of children's reach.

There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in the pre-school room and nappy changing area. Gloves and aprons were available for hygienic nappy changing.

Additional measures have been put in place to mitigate against the spread of Covid-19 in the service and cleaning schedules were in place for the care room, nappy change area, cots and sleep room. Cot linen was individual to each child and stored hygienically in labelled baskets.

A system was in place for the cleaning and sterilisation of mouthed toys. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel were available for hygienic hand washing and drying. A wash hand basin, at a suitable height for small children to be assisted with hand washing, was located in the care room.

### 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—*

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*(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)

Current certification in relation to first aid for children is available for staff members currently working in the service.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box is available and accessible to children and was observed stored in a conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

### 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)

Documentation was available for recording monthly fire drills. The last fire drill recorded was dated 12/12/2021.

(b)

The firefighting equipment was serviced and dated 18/11/2021.

The smoke alarm system has a maintenance contract in place and was last serviced 08/11/2021

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was clearly displayed within the pre-school rooms.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

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The registered provider had evidence of full day care insurance cover for 80 children. The insurance cover was valid to February 28<sup>th</sup> 2022.

### 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 pre-school room has been recently redesigned and refurbished and it is maintained in a good state of repair.

(b)

There is one point of entry to the premises and this is secured electronically and controlled by staff members to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. The side gated entrances were secured from the inside.

(c)

There are openable windows to naturally ventilate the pre-school room and the sleep area while ventilated from the same source as the care room also has the addition of an air-conditioning unit to regulate the air temperature if required to maintain correct room temperature for safe sleep. Mechanical ventilation provides the ventilation in the nappy change area.

Natural daylight was provided by the window and glass exit door to the care room and supplementary artificial lighting from covered ceiling strip lights in the care room. The lighting in the sleep area is controlled by a dimmer switch. The service is heated by natural gas from wall mounted radiators.

(d)

Cleaning schedules are in place and the premises and its environs were clean and well maintained.

(e)

Adequate sanitary facilities are provided throughout the service including nappy changing, children's and staff toilet facilities. A dedicated nappy change area with hand washing facilities is part of the reconfigured lay out of the baby room.

**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), (2)

A total clear floor space of 22.5 m<sup>2</sup> is available in the redesigned care room for the maximum daily attendance of six pre-school children aged 6 months- 1 year old and pro rata for any other age range of children attending on a full day care basis.