

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015KY070
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Name of Service	Little House Montessori
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Address of Service:	Mercy Primary School, Moyderwell, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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Email Address:	brick.helen@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Provider:	Helen Brick
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time		Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	From part time day care to sessional care, provision of an additional afternoon session. Increase in number of children to 22
Proposed Number of Children:	22 morning session, 12 children afternoon session
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	22 morning session, 12 children afternoon session
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 17 to 22 Change in Service Type from Part Time to Sessional Change in hours of operation from 09:00-13:30 to 08:45 – 11:45 and 11:45 - 14:45

Date of Inspection:	2	3	0	5	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
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Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	9 th June 2023

 An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	Child and Family Agency Act 2013 Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016	Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)	1 of 8
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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).

Description of Service	Little House Montessori is a private early years service currently registered as a part-time day care service providing care for children aged between 2 years and 6 years Monday to Friday inclusive.
Premises	The service operates from a room in the hall on the grounds of Moyderwell primary school. The service has access each day to a covered enclosed outdoor classroom to the side of the building and to a designated outdoor playground with soft matting located within the school grounds at times allocated from the national school children.
Staffing	There are 4 adults employed to work with the children including the registered provider who works daily in the service.
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	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.

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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.

The registered provider will be the designated person in charge, a named person who is 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) It is proposed that the 3 adults will be on the premises at all times while the sessional service is in operation. The playroom and the covered enclosed outdoor classroom were not in operation at the time of the Fit for Purpose Inspection.

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.

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(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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There are low shelving units provided in the playroom that are accessible to the children. A selection of play materials and equipment are stored on the shelves, on the floor and on tables. A selection of additional play materials and equipment are stored in secure cupboards within the room. The registered provider informed the inspector that a covered enclosed outdoor classroom with child sized tables and chairs, a bench, tables for sand and water play and planting boxes for example will be available to the children proposed to attend the sessional service.

For outdoor play it is proposed that the children will have access to a spacious fully enclosed playground with soft mating underfoot within the school grounds at allocated times to the children attending the national school.

(b) There are cushions and individual slim mats available for children to rest on. The registered provider informed the inspector she will re-locate the cushions and soft mats to a designated area within the room.

(2)(b), (3)(a) The children will have access to an outdoor play area located within the Primary school grounds as described above.

(3)(b) Not applicable as the children have access to an outdoor play area on the grounds of the facility.

(4) + (5) Not applicable as the children have access to an on-site outdoor play area.

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/guardians will provide all the food and drink for the children while attending the service. The registered provider informed the inspector that there was potable drinking water available at the sink in the kitchenette within the hall, the water will be brought in a jug and stored with cups on a low-level shelving area within the playroom. Additional allocated fridge storage space within the fridge located in the kitchenette in the hall will be provided to store children's perishable foods.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

- The internal doors, the main entrance door to the service and the doors to the hall are secured to prevent unauthorized persons entering the service and prevent children gaining unsupervised access outside.
- All gates within the school grounds are secured.
- All toys and play equipment in the playroom appeared to be safe and in good condition.
- The openable windows in the playroom and in the children’s sanitary accommodation are at a high level and inaccessible to children.
- The cleaning equipment observed was out of the reach of the children.
- The first aid box is stored in an area out of children’s reach on a high ledge in the playroom.
- The cleaning template schedules were available for inspection and demonstrated the service has daily specific cleaning records.
- There was hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available at the sink in the playroom and the sanitary accommodation.
- A number of pedal operated lidded bins were provided for disposal of rubbish and an unlidded bin in the playroom for re-cycled paper.

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) The registered provider furnished the inspector with training certifications for 2 of the 4 adults working in the service.
There are 2 adults with current First Aid Responder training and 1 adult has Basic First Aid training.
- (2)
(a),(b) The suitably equipped first aid box is stored out of children’s reach on a high-level window ledge in the playroom.

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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:	<p>(1)</p> <p>(a) The requirement is met in relation to the provision of a template for recording monthly fire drills. Records show that fire drills are taking place monthly, the most recent was 02/05/2023.</p> <p>(b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment and for the wired smoke alarm was furnished to the inspector. It was recorded that fire equipment was last serviced on the 27/11/2021 and the smoke alarm system was last serviced on the 12/04/2022. The registered provider furnished the inspector with an email in respect of a booking for maintenance of the fire extinguishers to be carried out on 24/05/2023.</p> <p>(4) The service has a colour coded designated assembly point in the event of a fire. A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed at the inside of the proposed playroom door in the service.</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>An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to the inspection. 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>
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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 building appears to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The main entrance door to the playroom, internal doors and the hall doors are adequately secured to prevent access by an unauthorised adult.
- (c) There are openable windows at adult height in the playroom and in the children’s the toilet facilities.

There are an adequate number of ceiling lights fitted with protected covers in the service.

The playroom air temperature was recorded at 19.5°C and the air temperature in the children’s sanitary accommodation was recorded at 18 °C. The registered provider stated that she has plans to paint the playroom and possibly remove the carpet floor tiles over the summer holidays.

- (d) Cleaning schedule templates are available, and all the play materials were observed to be in good condition. The registered provider informed the inspector she
- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities for both the children and the adults were provided.

There are 4 toilets and 3 wash hand basins allocated for use by the proposed pre-school children.

There is 1 toilet facility for use by the adults in the service located in the Primary school building.

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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.*
- (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).*

Requirement met:

- (1) Adequate floor space is available in the proposed playroom for the work, play and movement of the children in the service.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children.
- (3) & (4) The space requirement for children attending on a sessional EECE scheme basis is met.