

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015KY073

**Name of Service** Little Stars Childcare Centre

**Address of Service:** Greenfields, Firies, Killarney, Co. Kerry, V93 H66K

**Email Address:** littlestarsfiries@hotmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Edwina Moynihan, Elaine O' Connor

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

**Proposed change:** Change in the number of children that can be accommodated from 65 to 83 (additional room)

**Proposed Number of Children:** 83

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Change in the number of children that can be accommodated from 65 to 83 (additional room)

**Registered change:** Change in the number of children that can be accommodated from 65 to 83

**Date of Inspection:** 0 1 0 9 2 0 2 5

**Inspection undertaken by:** N. Reidy

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 83 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025

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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>	This privately owned early years service is registered to provide full day care, part-time and sessional care to children aged between 0 and 6 years. The service proposes to cater for 83 children, which is an increase in 18 children to be accommodated in the service. The service operates between the hours of 08:00 am and 6pm Monday to Friday inclusive. School aged care is also provided in the service.
<b>Premises</b>	The premise is a purpose built/adapted childcare facility located in the rural village of Furies, Killarney, Co. Kerry. There are currently 3 care rooms on the first floor, sanitary accommodation, a designated kitchen, laundry room and adult sanitary accommodation. On the ground floor there are 2 care rooms, sleep rooms, sanitary accommodation, an office, adult sanitary accommodation, a staff room and the proposed care room with a designated sleep room.
<b>Staffing</b>	Currently, there are 16 adults attached to the service, 15 of whom can work directly with the children, including the 2 registered providers. There is a designated adult employed for kitchen and cleaning duties.
<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>

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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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 on duty, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff	
<b>Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment</b>	
<i>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—</i> <i>(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met. (1)(a) The registered providers are the named persons in charge and there are named deputy persons.

Part III - Management and Staff	
<b>Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels</b>	
<i>(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.</i> <i>(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—</i> <i>(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</i> <i>(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.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The requirement has been met.</li> </ul> <p>(1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The registered provider who facilitated the inspection process confirmed to the inspector that an adequate number of staff including herself and the second registered provider will work directly with the children each day. The names of the 2 adults to work in the proposed care room were furnished to the inspector.</li> <li>• There were 3 care rooms in operation.</li> <li>• In the Toddler/Wobbler room there were 5 children aged 1year – 2 years present with 2 adults caring for them.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the Playroom there were 7 children present aged 2 years – 3 years cared for by 2 adults.</li> <li>• In the Junior pre-school there were 21 children aged 3 years – 4 years present with 3 adults caring for them.</li> <li>• In the Senior pre-school there were 9 children present aged 3 years – 4 years with 3 adults caring for them. The adult child ratio was correct.</li> <li>• There were no children in attendance in the proposed care room on the ground floor during the course of the inspection.</li> </ul>
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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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been partially met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The children will have access to some appropriate equipment and play materials that are available and accessible to the children on the floor and on open low level shelving units in the proposed care room.</li> <li>• There is an adequate number of child sized tables and chairs in the proposed care room.</li> <li>• The proposed children will have access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area located at the side of the building.</li> </ul> <p>(b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The registered providers have allocated a room for rest/sleep outside the proposed care room. There was 1 standard cot with a safety mattress and 2 stackable beds in the room. A referral was sent to the Fire Officer for fire safety advice regarding the additional sleep room.</li> <li>• The registered provider informed the inspector that additional stackable beds are available on the premises if required.</li> <li>• The proposed care room has soft matting and soft seating to facilitate children’s rest or to opt out of an activity as needed.</li> </ul> <p>(2)(b) &amp; (3)(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are outdoor facilities provided.</li> <li>• The outdoor play area is adequately enclosed and secured.</li> <li>• The outdoor area allocated for the proposed children in the proposed care room is located at the side of the building. The area had a soft matting surface underfoot and a partially enclosed area with overhead Perspex.</li> <li>• There was a variety of toys to play with outside for example, ride on toys, chalk boards with chalks, a toy kitchen with accessories, a “rest” section consisting of a section of artificial grass and a tippee, a fairy forest area and a selection of small vehicles.</li> </ul>
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# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	(3)(b) Not applicable as the proposed children have access to an outdoor play area on the premise.
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	(1)(a) 1. There was insufficient play materials and equipment provided for the proposed number of children to support various play opportunities. On discussion with the registered provider during the inspection, the inspector was informed that the plan is to provide equipment and materials in the room that is currently in storage and to purchase a selection of additional play items.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	1. Play materials and equipment from storage are provided together with additional materials and equipment from the playroom relocating to the new playroom will be transferred.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The correspondence received was examined. The requirement has been met.

### 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parents of the children attending the service will provide the food for snack times.</li> <li>• The service will offer the proposed children attending on a part-time full day care basis a hot meal that is cooked each day on the premise in the kitchen.</li> <li>• The service had a supply of potable drinking water in the proposed care room.</li> <li>• An under-counter fridge is in place in the proposed care room.</li> <li>• There were 2 microwaves and a toaster in place in the proposed care room.</li> </ul>
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# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 partially met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a keypad buzzer system in operation at the main entrance door for any visitor to the centre, used for authorised entry.</li> <li>• The external door was appropriately secured with a high-level push-button release system to prevent children from exiting unsupervised.</li> <li>• The emergency exits observed were unobstructed.</li> <li>• The cleaning agents observed on inspection were stored secured cupboards.</li> <li>• The fire doors observed with the low- level openable handles were alarmed that were in working order.</li> <li>• Any medicines are stored on a high-level shelf in the office.</li> </ul>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The keypad operated entrance door in the proposed care room was not secured, the door was not closing securely to prevent children accessing unsafe areas.</li> <li>2.The storage room was not secured. There were items such as for example an electric hoovers, mirrors and an electric fan in the room.</li> <li>3. There were 2 microwaves and a toaster accessible on a worktop in the proposed care room.</li> <li>4. The corners of the waterproof safety mattress provided in the standard cot in the proposed sleep room were ripped.</li> </ol>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The door has been repaired; it is now securely closing.</li> <li>2. A shooting bolt has been installed up high.</li> <li>3. The microwaves and toaster are now stored inside in the press.</li> <li>4. The mattress has been discarded, and a replacement mattress is on order.</li> </ol>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	<p>All the correspondence received from the registered providers was examined.</p> <p>The requirement has been met.</p>

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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) 4 adults employed in the service have up to date certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training. The registered provider provided the inspector with the said certifications.
- (2)
  - (a) The suitably equipped first aid box will be stored in the proposed room out of the reach of the children. Additional first aid supplies were stored in the office.
  - (b) The first aid box will be readily accessible to the adults.

### 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) The service has a template available to document the monthly fire drills. The most recently recorded fire drill took place on 15.8.'25.
- (b) There is a record of the number, type and maintenance records of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises. The last recorded maintenance of firefighting equipment was 25.2.'25 and for the smoke alarms was 06.5.'25.
- (4) A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the service.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.

The inspector was furnished with the current insurance certification. The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured
- the categories of insurance cover for the service that is Full Day Care, Part-time, Sessional and School Aged children.
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 83 children.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/26.

### 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 partially met.

(a)

- From a visual assessment, the premises appeared to be sound and stable.

(b)

- The entrance was secured to prevent children from exiting and to prevent visitors entering.

(c)

- The lighting in the proposed care room, sleep room, sanitary facilities and entrance areas is supplied by a combination of natural lighting through large

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>ceiling to floor windows and doors and artificial lights fitted with protective covers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The heating system is from combined air conditioning and heating units in place in the proposed care room, in the lobby of the sanitary accommodation and in the proposed sleep room. The registered provider informed the inspector on the day of the inspection that contact has been made with a service person to service the system.</li> </ul> <p>(d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From observation on the day of the inspection the play equipment and furniture appeared to be clean and in a good condition.</li> </ul> <p>(e)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sanitary accommodation for the proposed children attending the proposed care room consisted of 2 children’s toilets and 2 wash hand basins located in the proposed care room.</li> <li>Sanitary facilities for the adults are provided on the ground floor and upstairs.</li> <li>Going forward, the registered provider is aware of the requirement for sanitary facilities for the number of children toilet trained and for the number of children in nappies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p>(c)</p> <p>1. It was not evident if the mechanical ventilation system in place in the children’s sanitary accommodation was working. On inspection when checked with the registered provider she did not confirm if the system had been commissioned to be in working order.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>2. There was a gap to the outside air located over 1 set of double doors in the proposed care room.</p>

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>3. There was 1 blind in place in the proposed care room. The blind was not in working order as the secured cord was not attached to the open/closure rotating wheel device.</p> <p>4. There was no blind in place on the large window in the proposed sleep room to facilitate a restful environment for the children. It was acknowledged the registered provider stated the blind was removed and plans were in place to replace it.</p> <p>5. The paint on the window boards in the proposed care room was chipped away and required re-painting.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>6. The facilities for nappy changing in the allocated room in the proposed care room were not complete. The tiling and plumbing work had commenced, the registered provider demonstrated to the inspector the lay out of the wash hand basin and nappy changing unit.</p> <p>7. There was no warm water at the wash hand basins in the children’s toilets, at the low-level and high-level sinks in the proposed care room.</p>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>(c)</p> <p>1. The electrician fixed the mechanical ventilation.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>2. The locksmith fixed the gap on the door.</p> <p>3. The blind was serviced.</p> <p>4. A blind was ordered and fitted.</p> <p>5. Two new windows boards were installed.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>6. The nappy changing room has been tiled and plumbed.</p> <p>7. The water heater is in working order.</p>
<p><b>Summary Comment:</b></p>	<p>All correspondence received from the registered providers was examined. The requirement has been met.</p>

**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:**

- (1) Adequate floor space is available in the proposed care room for the work, play and movement of the children in the service.
- (2) The registered provider informed the inspector on inspection that the proposed care room will be used for 12 children aged 2 years to 3 years to start with. These children will come from the current playschool room located on the first floor. The proposed room will be in operation from 9.15 to 2 pm each day and thereafter will be used to accommodate school aged children. The minimum clear floor space is adhered to for the proposed number of 18 children aged 2 – 3 years on a part-time full day care basis.
- (3) & (4) The space requirement for the proposed number of children attending on a sessional basis in the pre-school room is met.