

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015LH022

Name of Service De La Salle Pre-School

Address of Service: St. Nicholas Montessori Boys National School
Philip Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Email Address: deemc06@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Denise McManus

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

Proposed change: The registered provider proposes to increase the number of preschool children attending from 18 to 22.

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Increase in numbers from 18 to 22 is approved.

Registered change: Change of number of children that can be accommodated from 18 to 22.

Date of Inspection: 0 6 1 0 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: M.Flood

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Child Wellbeing Centre,
Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan

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	1 st February 2024

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



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>De La Salle Pre-school has been operating as a privately owned childcare service since September 2001. The service provides sessional care and education to pre-school children aged 2 - 6 Years of age and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 09:10 - 12:10 each weekday. The service caters for the care needs of a maximum of 18 pre-school children.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to increase the number of preschool children attending from 18 to 22.</p>
Premises	<p>This service operates from within a Primary School building which is located in a residential area of Dundalk town in County Louth. The premises consists of a playroom, separate sanitary accommodation, and access to an outdoor play area on the grounds of the primary school.</p>
Staffing	<p>The Registered Provider and 2 staff members work directly with the pre-school children.</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 would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 a designated person in charge who is also the registered provider 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.

Requirement met:

(1) The requirement has been met.

It is proposed that three adults including the registered provider will be available to work directly with the pre-school children.

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.

(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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

The preschool children have access to adequate and suitable facilities for play both indoors and outdoors on the premises. The playroom is laid out with an adequate number of tables and chairs, some defined interest areas which are well supported with toys and equipment. A variety of sensory materials and equipment, montessori equipment and tabletop toys are also available on open low shelving.

(b)The registered provider confirmed that the children have access to cushions and a large bean bag is available for the children over 3 years of age.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(4) The outdoor area is a large, enclosed area, that is fenced and gated on the grounds of the primary school. The area has a variety of surfaces including a safety and concrete surface. A variety of toys and equipment is available for the children to access. The area is shared with the children attending the primary school.

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. Snacks and lunches are provided by the parents for the children attending the service. A refrigerator is available in the care room for the appropriate storage of perishable items. Potable drinking water is available in the service.

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 external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children exiting from the service unsupervised or to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- The designated emergency exits were clear and unobstructed.
- The radiators are thermostatically controlled.
- A supply of thermostatically controlled hot water to a maximum of 43 °C is available in the service.
- No trailing cables, wires or flexes were accessible to the preschool children.
- All blind cords were restricted in the service.

Requirement not met:

The requirement has not been met:
There was no running hot water available in the sanitary area at the time of the inspection.

Response from Provider:

The registered provider stated that the plumber arrived Monday 9th October and turned hot water back on when his works was complete. Please find attached pictures of running hot water and log of daily temperatures.

Summary Comment:

Based on the information submitted the regulatory requirement has been met.

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. The service had a person trained in first aid for children available to the preschool children in the service at all times. A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the service and was stored in a safe and conspicuous location.
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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:	The requirement has been met. A recording system is in place to maintain a record of monthly fire drills. A maintenance record for the fire- fighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was submitted by the registered provider and was dated 06/2023 and 18/01/23 respectively. A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was available in the service. The fire assembly point was clearly identified and visible.
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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:	The requirement has been met. Documentary evidence was available of adequate insurance cover for 22 pre-school children for sessional care and education.
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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. On visual inspection the building appeared to be sound and stable. The premises was safe and secure. The premises was adequately lit by means of natural lighting and supplemented by artificial lighting. All lights were fitted with protective covers. The premises were heated by means of oil-fired central heating. Ventilation was provided by means of open able windows and doors. The premises was found in a clean condition and in good repair. There were an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins available for the proposed number of children attending the service.
Requirement not met:	The requirement has not been met: The sanitary facilities in the service were unsuitable as the 2 toilets available while partitioned did not have any doors. This does not provide a sealed off cubicle so as to protect the dignity and privacy of the preschool children using the sanitary facilities at the same time.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider stated that child friendly enclosures were provided at the toilet area. Photographic evidence indicated that plastic shower curtains had been installed. Further representations were submitted in relation to the upgrade of the sanitary facilities which included photographic evidence of cubicle doors.
Summary Comment:	The photographic evidence submitted indicating that solid cubicle doors were placed at each toilet cubicle was reviewed and accepted. The requirement has now been met.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



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 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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met:

(1) Adequate clear floor space for the proposed increase in numbers to 22 is available in the pre-school service for the children’s work, play and movement.

(3) A total of 43.6m² clear floor space is available in the playroom. This ensured that there is sufficient space to cater for the proposed 22 pre-school children aged 2-6 years who could attend on a sessional basis.