

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015LH056
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Name of Service:	Little Partners Creche Ltd
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Address of Service:	Unit 3 Partnership Court, Park Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth
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Email Address:	littlepartnerscrechelimited@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Provider:	Patricia Hayes
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Type of Proposed Service:	Sessional	✓	Part-Time	✓	Drop-In	
	Full Day Care	✓	Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	Proposed Change of Circumstance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the number of pre-school children attending from 39 to 51. However, the space available will permit a maximum number of 49 children to be accommodated in the service as per the findings of Regulation 30. To add a new playroom to cater for the proposed increase in numbers. To increase the number of staff to 14
Proposed Number of Children:	The space available will permit a maximum number of 49 children to be accommodated in the service as per the findings of Regulation 30.
Registered change:	Change in number of children from 39 to 49 Change in number of staff from 12 to 14

Date of Inspection:	2	0	0	7	2	0	2	2
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Inspection undertaken by:	M. Flood
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate Child Wellbeing Centre Castleblayney Co. Monaghan
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Rationale for Inspection :

Proposed Change of Circumstance

- To increase the number of pre-school children attending from 39 to 51. However, the space available will permit a maximum number of 49 children to be accommodated in the service as per the findings of Regulation 30.
- To open a new playroom to cater for the proposed increase in numbers.
- To increase the number of staff to 14

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part time and Sessional service for 49 children.
Date of Registration	24 th August 2022

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 Partners Crèche Ltd have been operating as a community based childcare service since 1998. This not-for-profit service participates in the Community Childcare Subvention Programme and provides full day care, part-time and sessional education and care to pre-school children aged from 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 08:30am to 17:30pm each weekday and the setting caters for a maximum of 39 children.

The registered provider proposes to increase the numbers of preschool children attending to a maximum of 51 and to open a new playroom to cater for the proposed increase in numbers.

Premises

The service operates from a 2-storey facility that is located in a residential/ business area in Dundalk, Co. Louth. The 2-storey facility is divided into 2 sections;

Section 1; which is currently in operation, has 3 care rooms namely: The Woddler Room, The Toddler Room and Pre-School Room 1. A separate sleep room, sanitary facilities and a reception office area are also provided and are located on the ground floor. The first floor contains a kitchen area, office space and staff facilities.

The service has 2 enclosed outdoor play areas 1 of which are adjacent to the Woddler, and Toddler Rooms and the 2nd area is located off the Preschool Room.

Section 2: A new area of the building with a separate entrance has been recently renovated and is proposed to cater for the increased numbers of preschool children. This area consists of a purpose developed playroom namely Preschool Room 2 and is located on the first floor. Additional sanitary facilities, an office, storage area and staff area are also available.

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Staffing	It is proposed that 14 staff will be available to work directly with the increased numbers of preschool children attending.
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 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>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the service manager, 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:

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

Requirement met:

(1) The requirement has been met. The service manager advised that 2 new members of staff will be employed to work in the proposed new upstairs room. The service manager and 14 staff members will be available to work directly with the pre-school children throughout the service and is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6.

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.*
- (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*

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a) The playrooms are spacious and adequately resourced with play equipment and materials. Some defined areas of interest included a home corner with a kitchen, dolls and supporting equipment, a dress up area, a sand and water tray which are used for messy play, a library area with a variety of books and soft seating and low level shelving with a variety of blocks, trains and tracks and figures.

(b) A rest area equipped with soft mats and cushions is provided in the playrooms to enable the pre-school children to take a break from activities if required. There is a separate sleep room located on the ground floor of the building which contains 4 cots for the children who may require sleep during the day.

(3)(a) A fully enclosed outdoor play area is available to the pre-school children and is divided into 2 areas. Area 1 is located directly off The Toddler and Woddler Rooms and is accessed by the preschool children attending these rooms. Area 2 is located directly off Preschool Room 1 and is accessed by the children attending this room.

It is proposed that the preschool children attending the new room will also have access to this area. The outdoor areas are secured and enclosed and extend to the rear of the premises. A variety of play materials and equipment is available for the children.

(b) Not applicable as the outdoor area is provided on the premises.

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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.
The service will provide breakfast and snacks for the majority of the children attending the service. Snacks will also be provided by some of the parents for the children attending the service on a full day care/part time basis.
An external catering company will provide the hot dinners for the children attending on a full day care and part time basis and these will be reheated by the service. A varied 4 week menu is available in the service.
A refrigerator is available in the care rooms 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 partially met:
The following are some examples of the measures taken to safeguard the safety of the children in the service:

- Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and single use hand towels are available to promote effective hand hygiene practices.
- All blind cords are restricted.
- All cleaning products are inaccessible to the preschool children.
- The surface temperature of the radiators is thermostatically controlled to a maximum of 50°C.
- Pedal operated bins were available.
- Documented daily risk assessment templates are also available and proposed for use in the care room, sanitary areas and outdoor areas.
- The external doors are appropriately secured by a keypad locking system, to prevent children exiting from the service unsupervised or to prevent unauthorised access to the service.

Requirement not met:

The requirement was not met
The designated emergency exit in the newly developed sensory room on the ground floor was partially obstructed with mats, cushions and a play tent.

Response from Provider:

Photographic evidence was submitted of the cleared exit route.

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Summary Comment:	The response from the registered provider has been accepted. This route must be kept clear at all times.
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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 was met.

(1) A number of adults with an up to date First Aid responder qualification certificate are available in the service.

(2)(a) A first aid box is suitably equipped and safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the service.

(b) The first aid box is available in the pre-school service at all times.

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 is in place to maintain a record of monthly fire drills.

(b) A maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises is available and detailed 08/2021 and 05/08/2021 respectively as the last maintenance checks carried out.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire is available in the service. The fire assembly point is 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:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the new registration. The commencement of registration 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) On visual inspection the building appears to be sound and stable.
- (b) The entrance doors are secured by means of a key coded locking system which are accessible to the staff only.
- (c) The proposed new care room, sanitary accommodation and circulation areas are adequately lit with a combination of natural and artificial lighting. Temperatures throughout the service were within appropriate temperature ranges. The heating system is an electric system. The proposed new care room is adequately ventilated by means of open able windows and doors.
- (d) The playroom was found in a clean condition and in good repair.
- (e) There are an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins available to cater for a maximum of 33 preschool children who are toilet trained and are attending the existing care rooms on the ground floor.

The 1 toilet and wash hand basin located on the first floor is adequate to cater for the needs of the proposed 9 preschool children who will be attending the new care room. Adequate nappy changing facilities are also available in the service.

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 clear floor space is available in the pre-school service for the children’s work, play and movement.
- (2) A total of 17.8m² clear floor space is available in the proposed new room. This ensured that there is sufficient space to cater for the proposed 9 pre-school children aged 3-6 years who could attend for sessional care.
 The following clear floor space is available in the existing rooms:
The Toddler Room: A total of 28m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 11 preschool children aged 2-3 years on a full day care basis.
The Woddler Room: A total of 20.3m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 7 preschool children aged 1-2 years on a full day care/ part time basis.
Preschool Room 1: A total of 48m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 22 preschool children aged 3-6 years on a sessional basis.

 Based on this information adequate clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 49 preschool children and not the proposed 51.
- (3) Not applicable as this is a full day care service.
- (4) (a)(b) 1.818 m² of clear floor space will be available for children attending on a sessional basis.
- (5) Not applicable as this is not a temporary service.