

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015LH056

Name of Service Little Partners Creche Ltd

Address of Service: Unit 3, Partnership Court, Park Street, Dundalk Co. Louth, A91 CY50

Email Address: littlepartnerscrechelimited@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ciaran Reid

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: To increase the number of pre-school children attending from 49 to 60.
To add a new playroom to cater for the proposed increase in numbers.

Proposed Number of Children: 60

Recommended Change Following Inspection: The increase numbers proposed to 60(Max 56 full day/part-time) children using an additional care room can be approved as there is sufficient space available as per Regulation 30.

Registered change: Change in number of children from 49 to 60(Max 56 full day/part-time)children

Date of Inspection:	3	0	0	7	2	0	2	5
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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

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional for 60(Max 56 Full Day/Part-Time) Children
Date of Registration	11 th August 2025

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>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 08:30 to 17:30 each weekday and the setting caters for a maximum of 49 children.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to increase the number of children attending the service from 49 to 60.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from 2 storey facility located in a residential/ business area in Dundalk, Co. Louth. The service currently has 4 care rooms in operation namely: The Waddler Room, The Toddler Room and Pre-School Rooms 1 & 2. A separate sleep room and sensory room are also provided. A safe and secure outdoor area is available for the children to access on the premises.</p> <p>A new room namely Preschool Room 3, located on the 2nd floor has been recently renovated and is proposed to cater for the increased numbers of preschool children.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are 15 members of staff employed in the service. The registered provider proposes to increase the number of staff employed in the service to 16 to cater for the proposed increase in numbers of preschool children attending.</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 deputy person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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 service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy person.

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 16 staff including the designated person in charge will be available to work directly with the pre-school children. The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 and 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.

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 5 care rooms are bright and spacious and purposefully developed with specific areas of interest e.g. a home area, a construction section, sensory play areas, role play area, art and tabletop activities section. The areas are well supported with play materials and equipment. Tables and chairs are suitable for the proposed age profile of the children attending the service.

(b) The requirement has been met.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children have access to a soft /rest area which is located within each of the playrooms and consists of soft seating, mats and cushions. • A separate sleep room is located on the ground floor and contains 4 standard cots for children under 2 years to access for sleep as required. • Stackable day beds are available for children aged over 2 years to use if required. <p>(3)(a) The requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service has two enclosed outdoor play areas, one of which is adjacent to the Toddler Room and is accessed by the children attending this room, Preschool room 2 & the proposed new Preschool Room 3. The second area is located off Preschool Room 1 and the Toddler room and is accessed by the children attending these rooms. • Both areas are accessed on a rotational basis. The areas are well resourced and contain a range of age-appropriate toys and equipment. For example, sensory trays, a mud kitchen, a climbing frame, balance beams, ride on equipment, rockers and a variety of blocks and transport toys. A storage shed is also available.
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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:
All snacks, lunches and dinners are provided by the service for the children attending the service on a sessional, parttime and full day care basis. The hot meal is supplied by an external catering company and reheated by the catering staff on the premises. A weekly menu is available, and alternative options are reported in order to meet all dietary needs.
Potable drinking water is available in the service.

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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 following are examples of appropriate measures that have been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children including:

- The external doors were appropriately secured by a keypad locking system, to prevent children exiting from the service unsupervised or to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- The designated emergency exits were clear and unobstructed.
- A supply of thermostatically controlled hot water to a maximum of 43°C is available in the service.
- Cleaning products and medication were stored within a locked press and therefore are inaccessible to the children.
- Pedal operated bins were available.
- Electronic daily risk assessment templates are also available and proposed for use in the care rooms, sanitary areas and outdoor areas.

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) Nine staff members have up to date training in First Aid Responder (FAR). Certificates of training were available at the time of inspection.

(2)(a)(b) A suitably stocked first aid box was provided in the service and is available as required.

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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.

(1)(a) A recording system is in place to maintain a record of monthly fire drills.

(b) A maintenance record for the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available and was dated 27/08/2024 and 12/05/2025 respectively.

(4) 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.

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 77 pre-school children for sessional, part-time care and full day care. The expiry date detailed 31/12/2025.

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.

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	<p>(c) The proposed new care room, sanitary accommodation and circulation areas are adequately lit with a combination of natural and artificial lighting. All lights were fitted with protective covers.</p> <p>Temperatures throughout the service were within appropriate temperature ranges. The heating system is an electric system.</p> <p>The proposed new care room is adequately ventilated by means of openable windows and doors. An additional mechanical ventilation fan is operational in the new sanitary area.</p> <p>(d) The playroom was found in a clean condition and in good repair.</p> <p>(e) There are an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins available to cater for the preschool children who are toilet trained and attending the existing care rooms.</p> <p>The additional sanitary accommodation is located off the new care room and includes 2 new toilets and wash hand basins. This is adequate to cater for the needs of the proposed 11 preschool children who will be attending the new care room. Adequate nappy changing facilities are also available in the service.</p>
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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met:

Adequate clear floor space is available for the proposed increase in numbers of pre-school children attending the service, to cater for the children’s work, play and movement.

New Room: Preschool Room 3

A total of 23.52m² clear floor space is available in the proposed new room. This ensures that there is sufficient space to cater for the proposed 11 pre-school children aged 3-6 years who would attend for sessional care or 10 preschool children who could attend on a part-time or full day care basis.

The following clear floor space is available in the existing rooms:

Preschool Room 1: A total of 28m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 15 preschool children aged 3-4 years on a sessional basis or 12 preschool children on a part-time or full day care basis.

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Preschool Room 2: A total of 17.8m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 9 preschool children aged 3-4 years on a sessional basis or 7 preschool children on a part-time or full day care basis.

The Waddler 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.

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The Toddler Room: A total of 48m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 20 preschool children aged 2-3 years on a part-time or full day care basis.

Based on this information adequate clear floor space is available to cater for the proposed 60 preschool children.