

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015LK164

Name of Service Stepping Stones Montessori

Address of Service: Shanagolden National School, Shanagolden, Co Limerick

Email Address: elizabethsillery@yahoo.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Hazel Sillery

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

Proposed change: Sessional to Part-time

Proposed Number of Children: 22 (no change)

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Sessional to Part-time

Registered change: Change of Service Type from Sessional to Part Time
Change in hours of operation from 09:00 – 12:00 to 9:00 – 14:00

Date of Inspection:	1	4	0	2	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: J Ryan

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Early Years Inspectorate
2nd Floor Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	25 th March 2024

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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	This privately owned and operated sessional service was established in September 2012 and provides care for pre-school children aged 2.5 – 5 years from 9.00hrs – 12.30hrs Monday – Friday for 38 weeks of the year.
Premises	The service is based in the national school and can cater for up to 22 pre-school children at any one time. It is located in a rural area and comprises of one playroom, a sanitary accommodation area and an outdoor play area.
Staffing	The registered provider and two additional staff members work in the service each day and all staff have childcare qualifications.
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, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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:

(1)(a) The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named person who will be 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:

(1) There are 3 adults including the registered provider working in the service caring for a maximum of 22 preschool children. Two staff will remain in the service for the duration of the parttime hours until 14.00hrs.

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.

Requirement met:

(a) The playroom is bright and clean with natural lighting, supplemented by artificial lighting when needed. The room is equipped with furniture and play equipment suitable to the ages and stages of development of the children. Open ended and natural materials are available. The children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

Requirement not met:

(b) A suitable rest area was not available in the playroom for the children to rest and relax in as required.

Response from Provider:

(b) An adult sized couch has been purchased and is now in place in the playroom.

Summary Comment:

The requirements in relation to Regulation 20(b) have been met.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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:

Healthy eating will be promoted within the service. Adequate, suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink will be available for each pre-school child attending. For the children who propose to attend the service on a parttime basis parents will provide an additional snack.

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:

General Safety:

A general safety risk assessment of the service in relation to doors, windows, toys and equipment, electrical safety, storage and general health and safety was satisfactory.

The external doors are appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.

The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.

The cleaning agents and equipment are stored on high shelving and will be inaccessible to the pre-school children.

Infection Control:

The service appears clean and well maintained both internally and externally. Cleaning programmes and schedules are in place. There are sufficient wash hand basins, paper towel dispensers and thermostatically controlled hot water available to support effective hand washing. The service has updated their infection control policies and procedures in line with National guidelines in infection prevention and control.

Administration of Medication:

There was a policy on the safe administration of medications to children attending the service.

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.

Requirement met:

- (1) There are adults who have up to date certification in first aid for children.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box is easily accessible in the service.

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:

- (1) (a) Fire drills were practiced monthly and recorded in the fire safety register.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms was held in the fire safety register. The firefighting equipment was serviced in October 2023. There is a hardwired smoke alarm system in the school which was last serviced in December 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency was displayed.

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 change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

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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 premises was.

- (a) of sound and stable structure.
- (b) safe and secure.
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated.
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required.
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

(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 room measurements were recorded as follows.

6.6 meters squared x 6.1 meters squared = 40.26 meters squared.

- 2.35 meters squared are required for children aged 2-3 years.
- 2.3 meters squared are required for children aged 3-6 years.