

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2015MH110

Name of Service: Little Buddies Playgroup & Montessori

Address of Service: 18 Tudor Heights, Ashbourne, Co. Meath

Email Address: nicolamflannery@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Nicola Maguire

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

Proposed change:

- A change in the number of children to 33.
- An additional service type from sessional to sessional/part-time.

Proposed Number of Children: 33 Children who attend on a sessional basis.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: The service can accommodate 33 children attending on a sessional basis and 29 children attending on a part-time basis.

Registered change: Adding an Additional Service Type from Sessional to Part Time & Sessional.
Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 22 to 33 (Max 29 Part Time)

Date of Inspection: 1 7 0 8 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: D. Murray.

Title: Early Years Inspector.

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Family Resource Centre,
Commons Road, Navan Co. Meath.

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time / Sessional Service for 33 Children (Max 29 Part Time)
Date of Registration	22 nd September 2023

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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	<p>Little Buddies Playgroup & Montessori is privately owned and provides a sessional service from 09:00am to 12:00 md and from 12:30 to 15:30 pm to children ranging in age from 2 to 6 years. Eligible children participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE).</p> <p>The registered provider proposes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A change in the number of children attending the service from 22 to 33 children. • An additional service type from sessional to sessional/part-time. • A change in hours of operation to 9am to 1pm and from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.
Premises	<p>The service is located in a residential area on the ground floor of a house and consists of the following 2 care rooms: The Free Playroom and the Montessori room, sanitary facilities, kitchen, partially sheltered outdoor area and 2 grass outdoor areas at a higher level.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider will employ 4 childcare staff.</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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and the deputy person in charge 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:

The requirements have been met.

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

The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is 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) The registered provider has ensured that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

The Free Playroom will have 3 staff members caring for 24 children ranging in age from 2 years 6 months to 4 years attending the sessional ECCE service with 22 children availing of the part-time service.

The Montessori room will have 1 staff member caring for 9 children ranging in age from 4 to 6 years attending the sessional ECCE service with 7 children availing of the part-time service.

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.
- Play materials and play equipment in both care rooms are visible and easily accessible to the children on open shelving at their height which supports children to have choices in selecting materials and equipment to play with. Tables and chairs in each room are appropriate to the age and stage of development of pre-school children attending the care rooms. The care rooms are well resourced and have areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts, Montessori equipment and a range of suitable toys.
 - There are 3 outdoor spaces available to the children attending the service. The outdoor space off the care rooms is partially sheltered with an all-weather surface which permitted outdoor play in all types of weather. From the partially sheltered area there are steps up to a raised grass area which leads into a larger grass area. The outdoor play areas are equipped with age-appropriate play materials and equipment for example: a wooden playhouse with a slide which is accessed through a mystery door leading to a wooded area, digging pit, tyres, mud kitchens, ride on toys, boats, loose timber blocks, climbing frame, fairy table and play cars.
- (b) The requirement has been met.
 Cosy areas consisting of soft furnishings are available in both care rooms for children to take a break from activities if needed. No child attending the service will require a sleep.
- (3)(a) There are 3 suitable, safe and secure outdoor spaces on the premises. The spaces are enclosed by fencing with a secure gate.

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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:	All children will bring their own lunch and drink. Breakfast cereals and light snacks will be available if required. Water and milk will be available throughout the day.
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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:	<p>The following safety measures are in place on the day of inspection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All cleaning agents are stored out of reach of the children. • All play materials are placed on stable based shelving units. Play materials and equipment are observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children who will be attending the service. • The emergency exit doors are unobstructed. • A fridge is available for the storage of perishable items in the children’s lunch boxes. • Liquid soap, warm water and paper hand towels are provided to support hand hygiene in the sanitary accommodation.
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) An adequate number of staff have up to date First Aid Responders course and will be available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.</p> <p>(2)(a) and (b) The first aid box is suitably equipped and is safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the care rooms and are available at all times.</p>
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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:

- (1)(a) A template is available to record fire drills that take place in the service.
- (b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarm on the premises. The fighting equipment was last serviced on 16/06/2023. The mains powered smoke alarm was last serviced on the 18/09/2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is conspicuously displayed in the premises.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

An insurance quotation has been obtained for 33 children. 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.

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) The inspector observed the walls, flooring, doors, and windows are suitably maintained, and the inspector did not identify any safety issues or concerns.
- (b) The main entrance to the service is secured and the outdoor spaces are enclosed with fencing with a secure gate. These security measures ensure that a child does

	<p>not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor spaces.</p> <p>(c) Windows provided natural lighting to the care rooms. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required.</p> <p>Heating is provided through gas central heating with wall mounted radiators. Natural ventilation is provided by opened doors and windows with mechanical ventilation in the sanitary facilities.</p> <p>(d) Both rooms are in a clean condition. Cleaning schedules are available to ensure regular cleaning of the service.</p> <p>(e) The children’s sanitary facilities consisted of the following: Two separate sanitary facilities with 1 toilet closet and 1 sink in each. An additional sanitary facility is available with a partition between 2 toilet closets with a sink. One of these toilet closets is for staff only.</p> <p>Liquid soap and paper hand towels are provided in all sanitary facilities. Bins are provided for the disposal of paper hand towels.</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.*

(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).*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The registered provider ensures that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of the 33 children proposed.</p> <p>(4) (a)&(b) The Free Playroom: Free floor space available is 49.82 m². This provides sufficient space for the proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 children between the ages of 2 years 6 months to 4 years attending the sessional ECCE service, or • 22 children availing of the part-time service.
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The Montessori room:

Free floor space available is 16.42 m².

This provides sufficient space for the proposed:

- 9 children between the ages of 4 to 6 years attending the sessional ECCE service, or
- 7 children availing of the part-time service.