

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015MH119
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Name of Service	Little Scholars Crèche
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Address of Service:	Unit 6, Yeates Centre, Dunboyne Village, Dunboyne, Co. Meath
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Email Address:	Littlescholarscreche@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Provider:	Lisa Byrne
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the numbers of children attending the service from 73 to 86. An additional 13 children will be accommodated in a new care room. To change the age, range from 1 to 6 years to 6 months to 6 years. To increase the number of staff from 16 to 19.
Proposed Number of Children:	86 children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service to accommodate 86 children. Age range to be from 6 months to 6 years. The number of staff to increase from 16 to 19.
Registered change:	<p>Change in Number of Children from 73 to 86 children.</p> <p>Change in Age Profile – from 1-6 years to 6 months – 6 years.</p> <p>Change in Number of Staff from 16 to 19 staff</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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Date of Inspection:	1	7	1	0	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by:	D.Murray
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
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Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional for 86 children
Date of Registration	01 st November 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>Little Scholars Crèche is one of two services owned by the registered provider. The service provides sessional, part-time and a full day service to children from 1 to 6 years and operates from 7:30am to 6pm Mondays to Thursdays and from 07:30 am to 17:30 pm on Fridays. 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"> To increase the number of children attending the service from 73 to 86. The additional 13 children ranging in age from 2 to 3 years will be accommodated in a new care room (Room 2 Sunshine Waddler) with a cot room, sanitary facilities and small kitchen off the room. To change the age, range from 1 to 6 years to 6 months to 6 years. To increase the number of staff from 16 to 19.
Premises	<p>The service operates from a commercial building in Dunboyne village and consists of 5 care room, cot room, 2 changing room, kitchen and sanitary facilities.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider employs a manager and 14 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>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the manager and deputy person in charge 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 person who is able to deputise as required.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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:

The requirements have been met.

(1) The registered provider has ensured that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending Room 2 Sunshine Waddler. The registered provider proposes to have 3 childcare staff to work with the 13 additional children aged between 2 to 3 years attending the service on a full day care basis.

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 the care room 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 are appropriate to the age and stage of development of pre-

school children who will attend the care room. The care room is well resourced and has areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials and a range of suitable toys.

(b) The requirement has been met.

- A cosy area consisting of a child's couch with cushions and a mat is available in the care room for children to take a break from activities if needed.
- A cot room is available off the care room with 5 cots. Stackable beds are also available for the older children.

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

There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area provided to the rear of the premises with a secure door. The outdoor area has an artificial grass surface, and 2 partially sheltered areas permits outdoor play in all types of weather. Equipment includes water table, mud kitchens, sand tables, shop unit, tyres, activity wall, pouring wall and rockers.

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:

The requirement has been met.

The service had a 4-week menu plan with a variety of dishes ranging from meat, fish and poultry provided by a catering company. The service also provides breakfast and afternoon snack. The children bring their own morning 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:

The requirement has been met.

- On the day of inspection both the indoor and outdoor environment appeared safe. Risk assessments are conducted on a daily basis. The registered provider and staff members have a clear understanding of their role and range of responsibilities to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the children.

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.

(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.

(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.

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 template is available to record fire drills that take place in the service.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The firefighting equipment was last serviced in June 2024 and smoke detection system were last serviced on 16/04/2024.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the care room.

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.

The service has adequate insurance for 86 children from the 21/10/24 to the 27/03/25.

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) From observation the walls, flooring, doors, and windows appeared to be suitably maintained with no visual safety issues or concerns identified.

(b) The main door to the service is secured with a buzzer system and the outdoor space is enclosed with walls and a secure side gate.

(c) Windows provide natural lighting to the care room. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required.

Heating is provided through gas heating. The temperature of the room is maintained between 18°C to 22°C.

Natural ventilation is provided by opened doors and windows.

The care room is enhanced by an air conditioning system. Mechanical ventilation is available in the sanitary area.

(d) The room is clean with cleaning schedules available to ensure regular cleaning is documented.

(e) The children's sanitary facilities consist of the following:

- One children's toilet closet and 1 children's sink.
- One mat on the nappy changing unit.
- One staff toilet and 1 sink.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The proposed Room 2 Sunflower Waddler room has a clear floor space of 36.17m². This provides sufficient space for the proposed 13 children between the ages of 2-3 years attending the service on a full day care basis.