

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015MH135

Name of Service Mornington Preschool

Address of Service: Realt Na Mara BNS, Donacarney, Co. Meath.

Email Address: fineganh@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Helana Finegan

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| Type of Proposed Service: | Full Day Care | <input type="checkbox"/> | Part-Time | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sessional | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Drop-In | <input type="checkbox"/> | Childminding | <input type="checkbox"/> | Temporary | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Proposed change: Change in Service Address – from Community Centre, Donacarney, Mornington, Meath, A92 R927 to Realt Na Mara BNS, Donacarney, Co. Meath, A92WC52

Proposed Number of Children: 33

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Approval to change address

Registered change: Change in Service Address – from Community Centre, Donacarney, Mornington, Meath, A92 R927 to Realt Na Mara BNS, Donacarney, Co. Meath, A92WC52

Date of Inspection: 2 8 0 8 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: AM Cunningham

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Early Years Inspectorate
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

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| | <p>Child and Family Agency Act 2013</p> <p>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016</p> | <p>Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)</p> | <p>1 of 7</p> |
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| Registration Status: | Registered Sessional Service for 33 children |
| Date of Registration | 30th August 2024 |
| 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). | |

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| Description of Service | Mornington Preschool is a private Early Years' Service, located in Donacarney. The service operates from 9.30am to 12.30pm each weekday and provides sessional service to pre-school children aged from 2 years 8 months to 6 years. |
| Premises | The service is proposed to operate from a boy's national school and consists of two care rooms on the ground floor of the school. Sanitary accommodation is available within the care rooms. An outdoor play area is accessed to the rear of the school. |
| Staffing | Five staff members will work in preschool, which includes the registered provider and one staff member providing AIM support. |
| 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 provide, deputy person in charge and a staff member who were present on the day of the inspection. |

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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.

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 registered provider states that in the **Orange Room**, 1 staff member will care for 11 preschool children. In the **Big Room** 2 staff members will care for 22 preschool children, additionally an AIM support worker will be present.
The registered provider will also be present to provide support to both care rooms.

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:

The requirements of this regulation have been met.

(1)(a) Adequate and suitable facilities have been provided for children to play indoors during the day. A range of toys and equipment are available in the care rooms. An outdoor area which is safe, secure and suitable has been provided which is walled by the buildings and gated.

(b) Adequate and suitable facilities are provided for the children to rest on if required. There is a cosy corner with a large soft mat and cushions.

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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.

It is proposed that the children in this room will be attending on a sessional basis for three hours. The children will bring in lunches for their morning snack and these will be stored in the fridge in a room directly across the corridor from the care rooms. The children have access to potable drinking water, and their own drinks.

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 inspector did not identify any hazards that would impact the health, safety or welfare of the children attending the service. It appeared that appropriate measures had been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children, for example.

- Access to the preschool is through reception at the front door of the national school and persons gain access by approval from staff.
- All cleaning agents will be stored in a locked cupboard across the corridor from the care rooms.

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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 has been met.

(1) The registered provider has ensured there is an adult with up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training on the premises. Three valid FAR certificates are available for inspection.

(2)(a) An adequately stocked first aid box is provided in the service.

(b) The first aid box is available to the pre-school children 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) There is a log in place to record any fire drills that will take place.

(b) There is a written record of the number type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment dated August 2024.

(4) There is a notice displayed of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Requirement not met:

(b) A record of the maintenance certificate for the smoke alarms was not available.

Response from Provider:

The proposed registered provider stated that the fire alarms for the school building had been service on 27/8/2024.

Summary Comment:

The requirement has been met.

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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:

The requirement has been met.
Insurance is in place for the preschool children which covers a maximum of 33 children and expires on the 27/3/25.

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 partially met.

- (a) The service is operating from a premises which appears to be structurally sound.
- (b) The service is safe and secure with a locked entrance and a staff member at reception of the school approves access. The outdoor areas are walled and secured.
- (c) Lighting is provided by means of natural light and supplemented with 7 covered fluorescent lights in both care rooms the orange room and the big room and 1 in the sanitary accommodation area. There are large windows facing the outdoor area to the left-hand side of the building. The room temperature in the care room is adequate and comfortable. Heating is by means of oil.
- (d) The premises, toys and equipment are in a clean condition and in good repair. Cleaning schedules are available.
- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation is provided i.e. 2 toilets and 2 hand basins in the sanitary accommodation located in both care rooms. A staff toilet is available across the corridor from the preschool rooms. The sanitary area has a supply of liquid soap and a wall mounted paper towels. Additionally, there is one sink in the care rooms.

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| Requirement not met: | (e) The sanitary accommodation in the care rooms did not have a continuous supply of thermostatically controlled warm water. |
| Response from Provider: | A plumber has checked the wash hand basins and reported that each sink has its own thermostat to control the temperature of the water. |
| Summary Comment: | The requirement has been met. |

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.
- (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.

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| Requirement met: | <p>(1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement of the increased number of pre-school children proposed to attend the service.</p> <p>(3) The requirement has been met.</p> <p>There is a floor space of 63m² in the Orange Room which is adequate to accommodate 11 pre-school children aged 2 years 8 months to 3 years attending on a sessional basis.</p> <p>There is a floor space of 67m² in the Big Room which is adequate to accommodate 22 pre-school children aged 3 years to 6 years attending on a sessional basis.</p> |
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