

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015MO005

Name of Service An Scoil Beag @Scoil Phádraig

Address of Service: C/O Scoil Phádraig, Newport Road, Westport, Co Mayo, F28 VO23

Email Address: anscoilbeag@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Mairead Hastings

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

Proposed change: The service proposes the:

- Change of address
- Addition of a Session
- Hours of Operation

Proposed Number of Children: 22 Children

Recommended Change Following Inspection:

- Change in Service Address – from St Brendan’s NS, Myna, Kilmeena, Westport, Mayo, F28 R598 to C/O Scoil Phádraig, Newport Road, Westport, Co Mayo, F28 VO23
- Addition of a Session – from one morning to morning and afternoon session
- Hours of Operation for Additional Session – from 08:45 – 11:45 to 08:45 – 11:45 & 12:00 – 15:00

Registered change:

- Change in Service Address – from St Brendan’s NS, Myna, Kilmeena, Westport, Mayo, F28 R598 to C/O Scoil Phádraig, Newport Road, Westport, Co Mayo, F28 VO23

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of a Session – from one morning to morning and afternoon session • Hours of Operation for Additional Session – from 08:45 – 11:45 to 08:45 – 11:45 & 12:00 – 15:00
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Date of Inspection:	1	2	0	8	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by:	Aileen Bradshaw
Title:	Early years inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Brunel Building, Saint John’s Road West, Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8. D08 X01F
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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 Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	23 rd August 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	An Scoil Beag Montessori (Kilmeena) is one of three privately owned sessional services located in Westport, County Mayo. The service is registered to cater for up to twenty-two children aged from two to six years of age. It is currently registered to operate from 8.45am to 11.45am and is proposing to add a second session from 12pm to 3pm. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme
Premises	The proposed premises will operate from a classroom from the local primary school in Westport town. The children's sanitary area is located off the proposed room. The adult sanitary facilities are based in the primary school. The designated outdoor area is situated to the front of the primary school in an enclosed area.
Staffing	<p>The registered provider stated that there will be two adults working directly with 22 children. The registered provider does not work directly with the children but is available to offer support if required.</p> <p>The registered provider has stated that both persons who will work directly with the children will hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.</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</p>

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	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 wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, and the person in charge who was 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:	The requirement has been met. (1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy person in charge.
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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 requirement has been met. (1) The registered provider stated that they would ensure that an adequate number of adults will be working directly with the children attending the service. There will be 2 adults caring for up to 22 children on a sessional basis.
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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.*

(2) *A registered provider—*

(b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

Requirement met:

(1)(a)(b) The layout of the room allows children the opportunity and freedom to move around and choose their activities. The room has areas of interest defined with the use of furniture and floor coverings. For example, the play materials and space available for the children include a role-play area with dress-up clothes, a play kitchen with accessories, and an arts and crafts station with paints, paper, colouring pencils, and an easel. The tabletop activities were attractively displayed and available to the children on low shelving. Examples of the tabletop equipment available are threading, construction, and connecting materials.

There is a variety of Montessori materials available for the children on accessible shelving.

The equipment and toys are stored on low-level shelving and accessible to the children. There are sufficient tables and chairs to accommodate children to sit and eat their snacks or work independently with tabletop materials.

The 'forest library' is away from the main area with a teepee tent, cushions with a variety of books, with a large soft mat where children rest.

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(2)(b) The service has access to a designated secure garden on the school grounds. This area had a mixture of grass and a mulch surface with a concrete path for bikes and scooters.

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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.

The registered provider described that this room will be used for sessional children who bring their own snack for the ECCE session. The service has a healthy eating policy which includes information for parents regarding suggestions for healthy snacks. This policy also stated that drinking water is available for the children throughout the day. There is a fridge in the room to store any perishable food.

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 main entrance door to the service is appropriately monitored. The registered provider explained the parents and children will use the side door of the building adjacent to the preschool room and the main gate of the building is closed during school hours.
- The tables and chairs in the room, which will be used for tabletop activities and mealtimes, are at the appropriate height for the age of the children to be accommodated in the room.
- All storage of waste both indoors and outdoors, and cleaning materials, are inaccessible to the children.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All cables and flexes are adequately secured to reduce the potential risks to a child. • Shelving and storage units are stable and secure. • There is warm water, soap, and disposable paper towels in the children’s sanitary area to ensure effective hand washing is carried out. • A cleaning checklist was available in the room.
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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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Documents demonstrated that one staff member is trained to the First Aid Responder level and is rostered to cover the opening hours of the service and are thereby available to the children at all times. (2) (a)(b) The First Aid box is stored in a press in the room with conspicuous signage on the press door.
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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 copy of the templates which will be used to record monthly fire drills are available.

(1)(b) A record is available of the number, type, and maintenance of the fire extinguishers and smoke detection system of the service. Firefighting equipment and smoke alarm systems were serviced in October 2023.

(4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the room and the assembly points are displayed in the front and rear of the building.

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 insurance to cover a maximum of 24 children at any one time. The expiry date on the insurance certificate is the 27 March 2025.

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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 requirement has been met.

- (a) During the inspection it was observed that the walls, flooring, doors, and windows are suitably maintained.
- (b) The main entrance door to the school building was locked on the inspector's arrival. The system in place adequately secures the entrance to the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the premises.
- (c) The room has openable windows which provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting which is covered and recessed and is flush with the ceiling. The room has a thermostat to maintain the optimal temperature in the room. The toilet cubicles have mechanical ventilation systems in addition to openable windows to provide adequate ventilation.
- (d) The room was in a clean condition on the day of inspection. A cleaning schedule template is available in the room to ensure a record of regular cleaning.
- (e) The room has a sanitary area adjacent to it with two toilets and two wash hand basins. There are nappy changing facilities available in the building if required. Staff have access to the building's staff toilets. Warm water and liquid soap were provided in the sanitary facilities.

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 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) The clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play, and movement of children attending the service is adequate for the 22 preschool children proposed.
- (2)

Room	ECCE Room
Clear floor space	62.76 sqm
Age Range	2-6 years
Proposed number of children	22 sessional

The above table illustrates that the minimum clear floor space is available for children based on their age range and attending the service on a sessional basis.