

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015OY005

Name of Service: Little Wishes Pre School & After School Service

Address of Service: Ballyhearth
Athlone
Co. Offaly

Email Address: lesleykeenaghan@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Lesley Keenaghan

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

Proposed change: Increasing numbers of pre-school children from 27 to 33 to attend the service on a sessional basis.
Change the use of the existing “after school room” for use by the pre-school children.

Proposed Number of Children: 33 on a sessional basis.

Registered change: Change in number of children from 27 to 33

Date of Inspection:	0	3	0	2	2	0	2	1
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Inspection undertaken by: D. Molloy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tullamore Primary Care Unit
Church Avenue
Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Rationale for Inspection :

Increasing numbers of pre-school children from 27 to 33 to attend the service on a sessional basis.
The change the use of the existing “after school room” for use by the pre-school children.

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part time and Sessional service for 33 children
Date of Registration	23 rd April 2021

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	Little Wishes Pre School & After School Service is located in the rural towns land of Ballyhearth in Clonfanlough, Co. Offaly. Twenty eight children aged between 2 years 8 months and 5 years are enrolled in the service. This part time service operates from 8.30am to 2pm Monday to Friday. The sessional service operates from 9.30am to 1pm. A school age service is provided. Little Wishes Pre School & After School Service is owned and operated by the registered provider.
Premises	This early years service is operated from part of the registered provider's domestic dwelling and purpose built extension to the domestic dwelling. Access is restricted to the domestic dwelling. Although the early years premises is connected to the domestic dwelling the premises is used for the sole purpose of operating an early years service. Separate entry and exit arrangements are in place and the children do not use the door of the domestic dwelling. A lobby, entrance hall and cloakroom area, 2 play rooms are provided both of which open onto 2 separate outdoor play rooms. The younger children are facilitated in play room 2 and the older children are facilitated in play room 1 which is L shaped. Four sanitary accommodations and wash hand basins are provided for the children's use. In addition to the outdoor classrooms an extensive outdoor play area is provided.
Staffing	There was 1 adult present on the day, that is the registered provider.
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 two themes; Governance, and Safety.</p> <p>This inspection was undertaken during level 5 lockdown in relation to COVID-19 pandemic. At this point the service was closed as was required by the level 5 lock down.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with registered provider are documented in the Inspection report and presented to the Registration Panel for</p>

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	consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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 who facilitated 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) Ms. Keenaghan is named as the designated person in charge and also has a named person who could 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) No children were present on the day the Fit for Purpose inspection was carried out.

(8)(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

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.*
- (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 or*
 - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- (1)(a) The play room which Ms. Keenaghan seeks to register was equipped with appropriate, easily cleaned and maintained play equipment, that were easily accessible to the children
- (b) A rest area was provided in the room consisting of cushions and cosy area where children would attend this proposed sessional service could rest if they wished.

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	<p>(2)(b) The registered provider ensured that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space was provided on the grounds which could be accessed directly from the pre-school for children's use.</p> <p>(3)(a) The extensive outdoor play facility located to the rear of the premises was safely and securely fenced. A gate with high level handle was secured so as exit and entry from the side of the premises was controlled. This outdoor play facility provided a large range of high quality easily cleanable outdoor equipment. Multiple surfaces included a combination of all-weather surfacing, grass and gardening area.</p> <p>(b) Not applicable.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable.</p>
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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:

This requirement has been met.

Ms. Keenaghan could provide adequate, suitable, nutritious and varied food. For children attending on a sessional basis, mid-morning snack would be provided by the parents, for children attending on a part-time basis food would be provided by the service reflecting the requirements of the nutritional needs by the provider for the afternoon 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:

This requirement has been met.

It was observed that the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children were in place.

GENERAL SAFETY:

- The registered provider had set up a system so that an accurate register would be maintained of all children attending each day should COVID-19 tracing be required. Accurate staff records would be maintained which could be utilized should COVID-19 tracing be required.
- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach for children and a good supply was at hand.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- The registered provider was the COVID officer and had ensured compliance with the COVID-19 requirements.
- A designated space was provided should a child need to isolate in the event of exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms
- Parents or guardians would not be permitted to enter the service and social distancing would be maintained by parents while dropping off and collecting children through a system of separate entrances and exits which were clearly marked.
- Hand sanitizer's were wall mounted and also free standing. A regulated supply of thermostatically controlled hot water to a maximum of 43°C was on tap for effective hand washing. Liquid soap, disposable hand towels and pedal bins were in place.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider ensured that staff were trained in first aid for children and at least 1 person with training would be on hand at all times.

(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible position on the premises, a first aid box would be taken to the outdoor area for use outside when children were availing outdoor play.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

Insurance cover had been put in place to cover a maximum of 38 children attending the service.

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:

This requirement has been met.

- (a) The interior walls, floor and ceilings in the room seeking registration were in a good state of repair and maintenance with no evidence of dampness or mould growth. Windows in the room seeking registration were newly fitted and were both water-tight and weather-tight when closed.
- (b) Two separate entrances were provided in the service. A controlled entry system was in place which was operated internally by the staff. The external gate was monitored by staff and controlled by a high level locking system. The outdoor play area was securely fenced.
- (c) The service was bright and adequately lit. Heating was controlled manually and ventilation was provided by openable windows in all rooms and in the sanitary accommodation.
- (d) Although not in use due to COVID-19 restrictions, level 5, the premises was clean, hygienic and maintained in a proper state of repair. The cleaning schedule available included provision for regular and routing cleaning of both play and work equipment.
- (e) The service was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. Four w.c. and wash hand basins were provided for children’s use in the service.

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 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.*
- (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.*
- (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).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- (1) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the service. The total floor measurements was 28.10m² which allows adequate clear floor space for a total of 15 pre-school children availing of sessional care.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Ms. Keenaghan ensured that a minimum of 1.818m² of clear floor space is available for each child cared for in the proposed new room.
- (4)(a) Not applicable.
 (b) Not applicable.
- (5) Not applicable.