

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015OY027

Name of Service Little Trinity

Address of Service: The Bungalow, Puttaghaun, Tullamore, Offaly, R35 ER83

Email Address: littletrinitymontessori@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Eleanor Bagnall

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

Proposed change: The service is seeking to change operational hours in order to stagger the times that children arrive to both rooms for a morning session in the service.
Change from 9.00 - 12.00pm to 8.30 - 11.30am in one playroom. Change from 9.00 - 12.00pm to 8.45 - 11.45am in the second playroom in the service.
Change from 12.30 - 3.30pm to 12.00 - 3.00pm in both rooms in the service.

Proposed Number of Children: 34

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in time to 8:30-11:30, 08:45-11:45 and 12:00-3pm.

Registered change: Change in time to 8:30-11:30, 08:45-11:45 and 12:00-3pm

Date of Inspection:	2	7	0	8	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: A Spain

Title: Early Years Inspector

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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co Offaly, R35K1W4
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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 for 34 Children
Date of Registration	22nd October 2025

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 Trinity is a sessional childcare service in operation in a residential area in Tullamore town, Co Offaly. The service cares for children in the age range two to six years during school term in both morning and afternoon sessions. A school age service is also provided during the school term between the hours of 3.00 and 5.00pm
Premises	Rooms in use in the single storey standalone premises include two playrooms, sanitary accommodation for both children and staff, a utility area and a combined kitchen and staff room. An outdoor play area is provided directly behind and at the side of the premises.
Staffing	The service is currently staffed by five adults. The registered provider works in the service, caring directly for children in attendance.
Methodology	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

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	<p>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 wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(a)</p> <p>The service has both a designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise as required.</p>
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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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

Two adults are available at all times to care for up to 19 children in the age range 2 years 6 months to 5 years in the Yellow room in the service. Two adults are also available to care for up to 15 children in the age range 2 years 6 months to 5 years in daily attendance in the red room in the 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.*

(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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Both playrooms in the service are equipped with a variety of age appropriate toys and play equipment located on low-level shelving and in containers for children to easily

see and select for play activities of their choice. The range of play equipment available in both rooms includes puzzles, games, flash cards, connecting and magnetic toys for tabletop activities. Blocks, bricks of different sizes and dimensions, tool sets, farm sets are provided for construction play. Home corners are provided with playhouses, cookers, cooking equipment, food, utensils, dolls and prams. Animals, toys on wheels are available for pretend play. Montessori equipment observed included count and match pieces, cubes, shape insets and mini knobs. Art areas were provided with colours, paint, brushes, coloured paper, shapes and scissors. Toys were also provided to encourage learning of numbers, language and writing skills.

(b)

Both playrooms have quiet corners for children to rest and take a break from daily activities. The rest area in the yellow room is provided with soft cushions. The rest area in the red room also had a low-level soft couch.

(c)

The outdoor play area is provided with a smooth tarmac surface and is safely and securely fenced in by concrete walls. A section of the outdoor area is provided with an open perspex roof and seating for children, providing a suitable area for outdoor play during both inclement and hot weather conditions. An outdoor cabin is provided both to store toys and to provide an additional area for children to play outside of the premises. Wall mirrors, blackboards, natural materials including water pipes, shoots and a range of sensory and household items are wall mounted in the outdoor play area. The variety of toys provided in the outdoor environment includes a sand pit under an open roof top, water trays, a mud kitchen, climbing frames and slides. A storage shed which is secured with a high level latch is provided to store toys for rotation and not in everyday use outdoors.

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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.

A refrigerator is provided in the kitchen in the service to store perishable foods and snacks provided by parents and guardians for children’s break time in the service.

Drinking water is available in the service for children to avail of a drink as required during the day.

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.

The entrance to the service is secured and a doorbell is provided to facilitate access to the premises and hallway outside of the playrooms. A high level door secured from inside is provided on the open gable end of the premises leading from the front of the building to the outdoor play area to guard against unauthorised access to the children in the outdoor play area. The gas heating cylinders outdoors are fenced in by a concrete wall and secured by a cast iron gate to prevent a child gaining access when playing outdoors. Viewing panels are provided on the doors leading to the playrooms to assist with the care and supervision of children indoors. Cleaning equipment, agents and chemicals are stored outside of the playrooms, in the kitchen and utility area of the service. Wall hooks are provided in the entrance hallway to store children’s bags and coats off the floor. Staff personal belongings are stored in an area in the kitchen and outside of the playrooms.

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Refuse bins for the temporary storage of refuse are stored in an enclosed area and fenced off from the outdoor play area.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

A staff member working in the service is trained in first aid response (FAR) with an expiry date of 8 June 2027.

(2)(a)(b)

A first aid box is provided at high level in the entrance hallway and is easily accessible and available to staff providing care to children in the service.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

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A recording system is available to maintain records of fire drills as conducted in the service. The last monthly fire drill is recorded for 12 June 2025 and before summer closure of the service.

(b)

The maintenance record for the firefighting equipment located in the front hallway, the yellow room and kitchen confirms that an annual service was conducted on 11 December 2024. The maintenance record for the smoke alarm system confirmed that a service was conducted on 8 May 2025.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire is posted in the hallway and playrooms in the service. A fire assembly point for the service is posted on a wall at the front of the service.

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.

The service has insurance cover for a maximum of 40 children in daily attendance in a sessional service. Insurance cover is valid from the 28 March 2025 to the 27 March 2026

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.*

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<p>Requirement met:</p>	<p>This requirement has been partially met.</p> <p>(a) A smooth tarmac area leads to the entrance to the service. There was no evidence of dampness and mould growth on internal walls and ceilings and windows appeared to be both water and weather tight.</p> <p>(b) The service is connected to both the public water and drainage supply. The use of the premises is confined to the provision of a childcare service. The perimeter of the service is securely fenced to prevent both unauthorised access to the service and unsupervised exit of children from the service.</p> <p>(c) All rooms in use in the service have access to windows on external walls with a central hallway providing access to the rooms in the service. Openable windows in all rooms in the service coupled with fluorescent light fittings which are covered with shatterproof diffusers, ensure a good mix of both natural and artificial lighting as well as ventilation in the rooms. The gas fuelled radiators in the playrooms are thermostatically controlled.</p> <p>(d) All wall, floor and ceiling finishes are well maintained, in a good state of repair and were clean on the day of inspection. The refuse storage bins for the temporary storage of refuse are enclosed to prevent children having access when outdoors. The service has a pest control contract for vermin and pest control, and a visit took place to the service on the 23 May 2025.</p> <p>(e) Three toilets and two washhand basins are provided in the children’s sanitary accommodation to accommodate up to 34 children in daily attendance in the service at the one time. The washland basins are plumbed with a thermostatically controlled hot water supply to ensure the surface temperature does not exceed 43 °C. Liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bins are provided in the sanitary accommodation.</p> <p>A staff toilet which is serviced with a washhand basin and hot and cold water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and a foot pedal operated bin is provided off the utility area in the service.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(e) An additional washhand basin which is plumbed with a thermostatically controlled supply of hot water is required in the childrens sanitary accommodation.</p>

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Response from Provider:	(e) The registered provider submitted the registration requirement form and photographic evidence on 13 October 2025 to confirm that an additional washhand basin plumbed with hot and cold water has been installed in the children’s sanitary accommodation.
Summary Comment:	The corrective measures taken by the registered provider have addressed the regulatory requirement.

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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate floor space is available across the two rooms to accommodate up to 34 children registered to attend the service. An area of 38.9m² is provided in the yellow playroom to accommodate up to 19 children in daily attendance. An area of 30.2m² is provided in the red playroom to accommodate up to 15 children in daily attendance.</p> <p>(2) The registered provider has ensured that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for up to 34 children registered to attend the service.</p>
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