

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015OY068

Name of Service Marian Junior Pre-school

Address of Service: Erry, New Road, Clara, Co Offaly, R35 ET88

Email Address: Paula.bennett@muiriosa.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Mairead Sheedy

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" 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: Change in Service Address: New Road, Clara, Co Offaly.
Change in Number of Children: 10.

Proposed Number of Children: 10 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in Service Address: New Road, Clara, Co Offaly.
Change in Number of Children: 10.

Registered change: Change in Number of Children from 9 to 10 children
Change of Address from 155 Arden Vale, Tullamore, Offaly, R35 HH34 to Erry, New Road, Clara, Co Offaly, R35 ET88

Date of Inspection:	3	0	1	2	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: C.O' Connor Hughes

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care for 10 children
Date of Registration	3 rd January 2025

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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	This Early Years' Service provides a full day care service for children with an intellectual disability and is one of a multiple operated by Muiríosa Foundation Limited by Guarantee. The age range of children enrolled in the services 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 09:00 to 14:00 on a Monday to Friday basis.
Premises	The service is proposing to relocate to an adapted domestic dwelling in New Road, Clara, Co Offaly. There are five proposed pre-school rooms namely the classroom, dining room, sensory room, therapy room, playroom and a kitchen and office. There is an outdoor play area at the rear of the service. Onsite car parking facilities are located to the front of the service.
Staffing	The designated person in charge and seven staff members will work with the proposed ten children. A staff member will have a dual role as carer and cleaner. The registered provider does not work with children.
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 co-operation of the person in charge who was 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:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)

The Early Years service has a named designated person in charge and deputy person in charge.

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 was met.

(1)

Eight adults including the designated person in charge employed in the service will work with the proposed ten children to ensure the correct adult: child ratio is maintained at all times.

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:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)

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Adequate and suitable play facilities were available for children. Low level tables and chairs were noted in the pre-school rooms with developmentally appropriate toys and materials accessible to children on low level shelving. Dress up, a dolls house, a kitchen stocked with toy utensils and a farm display were noted in the playroom. Extra materials and equipment were stored in the storage area in the therapy room and playroom.

(1)(b)

A suitable rest facility was available for children to rest and relax in the pre-school rooms. Low level beds were available for children to rest and sleep.

(2)

The outdoor play area was surrounded by a high level fence and gates. Two wooden swings were noted on an absorbent surface. Age and stage appropriate toys and equipment were available and stored in the shed.

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 was met.

The designated person in charge stated the parents will provide sufficient and healthy meals and snacks for the proposed children attending the service.
The service will have some food supplies available if required.
A fridge is available for the storage of perishable goods in the kitchen.
A healthy eating policy was available in the service.

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 was met.

The emergency exit doors are unobstructed from the pre-school rooms.
Fire exit signs were noted in each room in the service.
A fire assembly point is in place to the front of the service.
Keys to the main doors are secure and out of reach of children.
Medication is stored in the office inaccessible to children.
Refuse bins are inaccessible to children.

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All cleaning agents are stored inaccessible to children.
The television was stored securely.

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 was met.

(1)

The designated person in charge has a first aid response qualification (FAR). A second adult held a paediatric first aid qualification.

(2)(a)

A first aid box was located in kitchen in the service.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to children in the pre-school 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 firefighting 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 was met.

(1)(a)

A fire register is available for monthly fire drills to be conducted in the pre-school service.

(b)

Maintenance records were available for the smoke alarms and firefighting equipment dated 2 December 2024 and 9 December 2024 respectively.

(4)

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A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

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 was met.

(a)

The premises visually appeared to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

The main entrance is secure to ensure the children’s safety within the service. Visitor access is managed appropriately. The inspector signed the visitors book on arrival.

(c)

An air to water heating system is the source of the heating for the premises. A service record was available and dated 19 December 2024.

The environmental temperatures were recorded at 20 to 22 degrees Celsius in the care rooms.

Natural lighting is available through windows and patio doors supplemented with artificial lighting in the care rooms. Protective covers were noted on the light fitting in the service.

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	<p>Windows are openable in the care rooms and in the sanitary accommodation to allow for natural ventilation.</p> <p>The service is connected to the public water supply and drainage system.</p> <p>(d) The floors and the walls are in a good state of repair and maintenance. The premises has been newly painted. A cleaning schedule was available for the service.</p> <p>A contractor for the collection of refuse bins has been engaged by the service to collect refuse from the premises on a scheduled basis.</p> <p>Pest control records noted the last inspection was dated the 18 December 2024.</p> <p>(e) Two toilets and two wash hand basins are available in the sanitary accommodation. A nappy changing unit is available in the main children’s bathroom. The nappy changing procedure was displayed. A separate staff toilet and a wash hand basin are available for use by staff members. Thermostatically controlled water was available in the kitchen and sanitary accommodation. The temperature recorded at the wash hand basins was 30 degrees Celsius.</p>
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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.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1) Clear floor space was available to provide the children with an environment to work, play and move freely in the service.</p> <p>(2)</p>
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The recorded measurements indicated there is adequate space at for the proposed ten children to attend the service.

Room 1	Room 2	Room3	Room 4	Room 5
Classroom	Dining room	Sensory room	Therapy room	Playroom
25.3m2	26.4m2	15.4m2	17m2	21.6m2