

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D:	TU2015TY053					
Name of Service:	Laochra Beaga (previously Newport Community Playschool)					
Address of Service:	St Mary's Education Campus, Church Road, Newport, Co. Tipperary, V94N2N8					
Email Address:	rory_mcgrath1984@hotmail.com					
Name of Registered Provider:	Rory McGrath					
Type of Proposed Service:	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed change:	Registered provider, Person in charge, service name, address, service type (sessional to full day care), hours of operation, contact details (email and phone numbers) and increase in number of children from 22 to 44					
Proposed Number of Children:	44					
Registered change:	Change of Service Name: Laochra Beaga Change of Service Address: St Marys Education Campus, Church Road, Newport Change of Registered Provider: Rory McGrath Change of Person in Charge: Nicole Curley Change in Number of Children: 25 Change in Service Type: Full Day-care Change in Hours of Operation: 8am to 6pm Change in Phone Number of Service: 061 373458 Change in Mobile Number of Service: 061 373458 Change in Mobile Number of Registered Provider: 061 373458 Change in Email Address of Service: rory_mcgrath@hotmail.com					

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Inspection undertaken by:	L McGeeney
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Civic Offices Limerick Road Nenagh Co. Tipperary
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Rationale for Inspection:	
Proposed Change of Circumstance	Change of service address / number of children / service type / hours of operation

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

Registration Status:	Service Laochra Beaga, St Marys Education Campus, Church Road, Newport, operating Full Day-care from 08.00am-18.00pm for 25 children
Date of Registration	16/11/2021

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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 sessional service, located in the town of Newport in North Tipperary, proposes to change to a full day care service for children aged two to six years old. The service will operate from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday for 48 weeks of the year, including a sessional service operated under the early childhood care and education scheme (ECCE/free pre-school) from 9am to 12pm, Monday to Friday, for 38 weeks of the year, for eligible children. The service will also offer a school aged care service for children aged five to 12 years old.
Premises	The service proposes to continue using the current premises and adding a second building within the complex of buildings on the site. The complex had been the former convent secondary school. The buildings to be used for the early year's service are two freestanding, prefabricated buildings constructed in 1965, formerly the music room (current service premises) and the hall, where the stage area has been made into an early year's room. The hall will also be used as part of the school aged care service. The children will have access to two early years rooms, a large hall for indoor physical activity, sanitary accommodation areas and several outdoor play areas.
Staffing	The proposed new registered provider will work in the service on a daily basis. It is proposed that there will be five staff in the early year's service working directly with the children on a daily basis. All of the staff hold recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels 6 and 9 on the national framework of qualifications.
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>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 presented to the Registration Panel for 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider 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:	This requirement has been met. (1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person who could deputise when required.
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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.
 (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) It is proposed that there will be at least five staff working with up to 44 children aged two to six years old. (8)(b) Not applicable to this service (c) Not applicable to this service.
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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.

- (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 children will have access to two early years rooms and a large hall for indoor play. The early years rooms were equipped with child sized furniture and child accessible storage units. The rooms were set up in a number of interest areas which included reading areas, cosy seating areas, manipulative play areas, table-top activities areas, small world and imaginative play areas. There was a large supply of sports equipment in the storeroom off the hall. There were two main outdoor play areas and a third area planned for development. There was an enclosed playground outside the existing sessional service building. This area was enclosed by wooden fencing and included a covered area for outdoor play in all areas. This space was equipped with a playhouse, climbing frame and slides and ride on toys. The second area consisted of a covered walkway which was formerly the convent cloister. This area was a long space and approximately two metres wide with a full wall on one side and a half wall on the other side. This space had been developed into a number of distinct interest areas which included a kitchen, shop, sand box and car track on an artificial grass surface. There was also a large wall mounted blackboard and a large area for running, games and ride-on toys.

(b) All of the children will be aged over two years old so a separate sleep room will not be required. There were soft seating areas in both rooms where the children could rest and relax when they need to during the day. There were also several sets of sleep mats and blankets that could be used by the children who require a sleep while attending the service.

(2)(b) Not applicable to this service.

(3)(a) There were two outdoor play areas available to the children which they will have access to on a daily basis.

(b) Not applicable to this service.

(4) Not applicable to this service.

(5) Not applicable to this service.

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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.
The children will bring a packed lunch to be consumed during the morning session. There was a fridge in the former sessional service room for the storage of perishable foods. There was a second fridge in the kitchen in the other building. A hot meal will be provided to children attending on a part-time or full day care basis. Hot food will be supplied by a catering company who have been supplying hot food for the school aged care aspect of the service. There was a two-week menu for hot meals. The registered provider was in the process of developing the kitchen so that the service will be able to prepare and cook the hot meals for the children in the near future.
The children will have access to drinking water at all times while attending 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:

This requirement has been met.

GENERAL SAFETY

- The complex within which the early years buildings were located was enclosed by walls and a gate which could be secured while the service was in operation. The gate opened into a courtyard from which both early years buildings were accessed. When the children were in this enclosed yard, they could not gain access to a roadway or other source of danger.
- The doors of each building will be secured to prevent any unauthorised persons accessing the building and to prevent children from exiting the premises unsupervised.
- The covered walkway was accessed through a door in the wall of the courtyard which could be secured while the children were using this area and prevent any unauthorised access to the outdoor area.
- There was soft fall matting under the climbing equipment in the outdoor area.
- The new early years room was created on the stage of the hall. This area was accessed by two sets of steps on either side of the stage: one set for entry and the other for exit. The outside edge of the stage and steps were fitted with a wooden banister of uprights and a top rail to enclose the space and make it safe.
- There was a set of steps at the back of the stage for access to the sanitary accommodation area and the kitchen. The surface of these steps was non-slip.

INFECTION CONTROL

- The service had policies and procedures on infection prevention and control including additional measures taken in relation to COVID-19.
- There were hand washing facilities in both buildings with hot and cold running water, thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C, where the staff and children could wash their hands at appropriate times during the day including before eating and after using the toilet, messy play, outdoor play and using tissues.
- Hand sanitiser gel was available for use in wall mounted units in each building and on the outside of the existing sessional service. There was also a freestanding hand gel dispenser at the entrance to the second building.
- There was a cleaning schedule detailing the frequency and method of cleaning of the premises, toys, equipment and materials.
- There was a supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) including face masks, gloves and aprons for use by the staff as required.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

- There was a documented policy and procedure for the administration of medication.

FIRE SAFETY

- A fire safety risk assessment had been carried out by an engineer. The recommendations of the risk assessment were scheduled to be completely carried out by February 2022 after which time the compliance certificate will be sought.

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) Several of the staff were qualified in first aid for children or as first aid responders (FAR).

(2)(a) There was a wall mounted first aid cabinet in the area outside the kitchen and a first aid box on a hook of the early years room of the hall. There was also a first aid box in the second early years room. The first aid supplies were available if required at any time by a child attending the service.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There was a record available of fire drills that took place in the service.

(b) There was a record of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Fire-fighting equipment was last serviced in July 2021.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed on the walls 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 registered provider had insurance cover for up to 24 children attending on a full day care basis valid from 1 September 2021 to 28 February 2022. This was sufficient cover for the number of children enrolled to attend the service from September 2021.

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 buildings that will be used by the early years children appeared to be of sound and stable structure. Both buildings were prefabricated structures which were built in 1965. A fire safety risk assessment, which was carried out by an engineering company, was submitted as part of the change in circumstances process.

(b) The early years buildings were safe and secure. Both buildings had new entrance/exit doors fitted recently. The doors would be kept secured while the service was in operation. The gate into the entrance courtyard and the door into the covered walkway could also be secured. The vertical window blinds on the windows of the stage were opened and closed using a rod that hung from the top of each blind and was out of reach of the children.

(c) Both early years rooms, sanitary accommodation areas and the hall were well lit by natural light through windows to outside walls. Natural light was supplemented by artificial light as required. All light fittings were enclosed units. All of the windows were openable which ensured that the rooms could be well ventilated. There were oil fired radiators on the walls throughout the service. The inspection was carried out on a warm day when the heating system was not turned on, so the surface temperature of the radiators was not assessed.

(d) The premises were clean, well maintained and in good repair. The rooms had been painted recently.

(e) There was sufficient sanitary accommodation for the proposed numbers of staff and children who will attend the service. There were three toilets and wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation area in the existing early years building and an additional toilet and wash hand basin in the proposed second building. Hot water for the wash hand basins was heated by electric water heaters.

There was additional sanitary accommodation in the other buildings of the complex which included a staff sanitary accommodation area and a toilet block with six toilets and wash hand basins.

Nappy changing facilities would be provided if required for any child who was not yet toilet trained.

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) There was sufficient space for the number of children proposed to be catered for in the service. The existing early years room measured 40m². The new room measured 65m². In addition, the hall measured 147m².
- (2) There was sufficient space available in the service for the 44 children that the service proposed to cater for when at full capacity.
- (3) There was sufficient space for 44 children to attend the service for the ECCE session each morning.
- (4) There was sufficient space in the service for the proposed number of 44 children to attend the service at any one time. This included times when a sessional service and a full day care service were operated contemporaneously.
- (5) Not applicable to this service.