

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015WW211

Name of Service: Little Stars on the Lane

Address of Service: Theatre Lane Studios,
Theatre Lane,
Greystones,
Co. Wicklow.

Email Address: ciara@naionra.org

Name of Registered Provider: Ms. Ciara Watson

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:	<p>Change name from Naoinra na Lana to Little Stars on the Lane.</p> <p>Change in service type, from part-time/ sessional to full day care/ part-time/ sessional.</p> <p>Change in age of children to be catered for from 2 years and 6 months to 5 years, to 2 years to 5 years of age.</p> <p>Presently employs 14 staff. This would increase as needed depending on demand and the age profile of the children and length of time that they are availing of the service.</p>
Proposed Number of Children:	A total of 60 pre-school children at any one time with a maximum of 47 children if attending on a Part-time/Full day care basis.
Registered change:	All changes outlined above approved.

Date of Inspection:	0	1	1	2	2	0	2	1
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Inspection undertaken by:	Mona Condon
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.
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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 Full Day/Part Time/Sessional Service for 60 children
Date of Registration	31 st January 2022

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 service was established in 2016. The service proposes to accommodate children on a full day care, part-time and sessional basis. It is proposed to provide care to pre-school children from two and a half years to five years of age. The service will operate from 07.30 to 18.30pm daily. The service proposes to cater for a maximum 60 pre-school children at one time; a maximum of 47 pre-school children will attend on a part-time or full day care basis. This service is one of four services operated by the registered provider in the Wicklow area.
Premises	The service operates from a renovated dance studio in Greystones village. There are three care rooms, two sanitary areas, a kitchen, sleep room, staff room and a separate office, all located on the first floor of the building. There is a rooftop outdoor area where children will have access to outdoor play equipment.
Staffing	There are fourteen staff employed, all of whom hold an Early Childhood Care & Education qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications. The registered provider and regional manager were present during inspection and it was stated that at least one of them will be present on a daily basis to assist in rooms as needed and to undertake administration tasks.
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)

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	<p>(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 registered provider, regional manager, staff and children who were 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 registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required. Fourteen staff members are employed to provide direct care to the proposed 47 children who will attend on a part-time/ full day care basis or 60 children attending on a sessional basis in the service.

The requirement has been met.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The service is currently registered to cater for a maximum of sixty pre-school children. On inspection there were a total of thirty pre-school children present. The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 and will ensure that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the pre-school children in the service. The registered provider will increase her staffing complement depending on the number of children present and type of care required.

(8)(b) Not applicable as this is not a childminding service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a sessional service that operates single-handedly.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Adequate and suitable facilities for play indoors was provided. A selection of age-appropriate toys and equipment, games and materials were available in the three rooms for use by the pre-school children. Montessori equipment, puzzles, construction toys, toy kitchen, workshop, toy animals and table-top games were examples of some of the equipment and toys available.

A suitable, safe and secure outdoor play area was located at the rooftop of the premises. The area was secured by fencing at the boundary which was approximately 2 metres high. This area was solely for use by the children attending the pre-school. A timetable was drawn up for the children attending each care room to have access to the area at specific times daily. This plan allows for a maximum of 11 pre-school children in the outdoor area at one time. Access is rotated during the day with each child scheduled to have at least 45 minutes daily outside.

As this was accessed through a stairway, access was risk assessed and a procedure in place to reduce any risk identified.

A cleaning schedule was in place to clean toys and equipment both indoors and outdoors.

(b)

A separate sleep room equipped with 10 low beds was available for any child needing to sleep during the day. Suitable bed linen was provided.

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	<p>Soft seating was provided in the three care rooms for the children to take a break from activities and rest if required.</p> <p>(2), (3)(b), and (5) these sections are not applicable as the proposed full daycare service has an outdoor space available on the premises.</p> <p>(3)(a) Children attending the service have access to an outdoor play area. A range of equipment including a slide, construction materials, a low climbing frame, balls and a playhouse were available.</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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>There was a healthy eating policy in place. Children will have access to drinking water at all times. The registered provider has sourced hot meals from an outside catering company meal which will be served to the pre-school children who are attending on a part-time or full day care basis at lunchtime. The service will provide breakfast, snacks and tea. Sample menus were available.</p> <p>Parents of children availing of the sessional hours may provide a packed lunch from home or the children may avail of a hot meal provided by the service if preferred.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been partially met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entrance door from street level leading into the building and the entrance door leading directly into the service were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the Early Years’ service. A one-way system staggered system is in place at arrival and departure times in order to facilitate social distancing at this time. Outside of this time admission is enabled using a buzzer intercom system. • Play materials and equipment in use were stored low level stable based shelving units which reduced the risk of the furniture from toppling and injuring a child. • Hand hygiene sanitation stations positioned at adult and child level were available in the outdoor area, at the entrance and in the three care rooms. • No trailing flexes, cables or electrical items were accessible to the pre-school children. Pedal bins were available for use in the sanitary areas and in the rooms. • Cleaning agents were inaccessible to the children. • The service’s refuse bins were inaccessible to the children.
Requirement not met:	<p>General Safety:</p> <p>1.The temperature of the water in the wash hand basin used by children after nappy changing was 50.1°C posing a risk of scalding. The temperature of the water for handwashing must be below 43°C.</p> <p>Infection Control:</p> <p>2. In two of the toilets, the toilet roll dispenser was not in use. Both staff and children therefore had to handle the roll posing a risk of cross infection.</p> <p>3. In two of the toilets a paper hand towel dispenser was not available. This could cause over-handling of the clean paper towels posing a risk of cross infection.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>1. A plumber has regulated the temperature of the hot water so that it is now below 43°C in all taps in the service.</p> <p>2. We have installed toilet roll dispensers in the toilets for use.</p> <p>3. We have installed hand towel dispensers in each of the toilet areas.</p>

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Summary Comment:	The actions taken by the registered provider and the evidence received have been considered by the inspector. The requirements under Regulation 23 have been met.
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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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met

(1) The registered provider will ensure that a person trained in first aid for children was at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. The registered provider and the regional manager both had Pre-hospital emergency care council (PHECC) training which expires in January 2022.

(2)(a) and (b) First aid boxes were suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions in the service, available at all times for the children if necessary.

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 written record is available of the fire drills completed on a monthly basis in the service.

(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service. The fire-fighting equipment and the fire detection system were both serviced in October 2021.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in all of the care rooms. The fire assembly point is clearly identified and located at the front 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 registered provider had ensured that the Early Years’ service was adequately insured to cover up to 60 children attending on a full day care basis. The service was insured from 01/09/2021-31/08/2022.

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) The premises appeared to be adequately maintained.

(b) The door at street level leading to the premises and the internal entrance door leading into the service were kept secured at all times during the operational hours of the service.

(c)

Lighting

The premises were adequately lit by means of natural lighting which was supplemented by artificial lighting in the care rooms. The sleep room had artificial lighting only which could be dimmed.

Heating

The premises were heated by means of an electrical heating system. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection. A mechanical heating system combined with a ventilation system is available in all rooms including the sleep room.

Ventilation

A new electrical ventilation, heat and carbon dioxide monitoring system has been installed throughout the premises. In addition, there were openable windows in the three care rooms.

(d)

The service was in a clean condition. Up to date documented cleaning schedules carried out by staff were on display in the service.

(f)Sanitary Facilities

An adequate number of sanitary areas were available. There was a total of 6 toilets and 7 wash hand basins available; Two toilets and 2 wash hand basins were available in one of the sanitary areas which also provided a nappy changing unit and a third wash hand basin.

In a second sanitary area 4 toilets and 4 wash hand basins were located.

Separately a toilet, wash hand basin and shower were available for staff only.

Suitable pedal operated lidded bins were provided.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The service has adequate clear floor space for the proposed 60 pre-school children on a sessional basis or 47 pre-school children on a full day care/ part-time basis.

(2)

Room 1. Global Gardens Room:

The clear floor space in Room 1 measured 34.6 square metres.

Room 2.

The clear floor space in Room 2 measured 35.3 square metres.

Room 3

The clear floor space in Room 3 measured 70.2 square metres.

There is sufficient space in the service to cater for the proposed 47 pre-school children on a part-time/ full day care basis plus 14 pre-school children on a sessional basis.

The registered provider will ensure that adequate space will be provided for each pre-school child as specified in Schedule 7.