

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D:** TU2015WX078

**Name of Service** Little Munchkins Childcare

**Address of Service:** Booley Hill, Fethard on Sea, Wexford.

**Email Address:** Trish.molloy@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Patricia Molloy

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	✓	<b>Part-Time</b>	✓	<b>Sessional</b>	✓
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

**Proposed change:** To change the services registration from sessional /part-time to include a full day care service also. To increase number of staff from 5 to 6. To increase the maximum number of children accommodated from 25 to 40.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 40

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** The inspector recommends all proposed changes approved

**Registered change:** Change in Service Type from Part Time / Sessional to Full Day Care  
Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 24 to 40.  
Change in number of staff from 5 to 6.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	9	0	9	2	0	2	3
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**Inspection undertaken by:** E Mc Garry

**Title:** Early years inspector.

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care Service for 40 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2023

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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Little Munchkins Childcare is a privately operated service. It is in a rural community in south county Wexford. The service is situated on the grounds of the registered provider's home. It is currently registered to provide a sessional/ part-time service to 25 children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The opening hours are 9.30am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday for 51 weeks per year. The service is also registered to provide a school age service to 20 children.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to change the services registration from sessional /part-time to include a full day care service also. To increase number of staff employed from five to six staff members. To increase the maximum number the service can accommodate from 25 to 40 early years children aged from 2 to 6 years. To change the hours of operation from 9.30am to 2.00pm to 8.00am to 5.00pm. The registered provider proposes to accommodate the extra children in a newly constructed room to the rear of the service.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service consists of two early years rooms these are named the toddler room and the early care and education room one Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). There are toilets and a nappy changing area. There is a large play area to the rear of the service. There is a recently constructed new room called ECCE 2 room to the rear of the service.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>There are currently five staff employed in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. The registered provider proposes to employ an additional staff member to accommodate an increase in the number of children the service can accommodate. All staff currently employed to work in the service are qualified in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.</p>
<b>Methodology</b>	<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)</p>

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	<p>(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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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 service has designated a person in charge and a named deputy.

### 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) (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are always at least 2 adults on the premises

**Requirement met:**

(1)

The registered provider proposes to continue to employ the same staff members to work directly with the proposed children during the hours of operation of the full day care service. The registered provider will employ more staff as necessary to ensure there is an adequate number of staff working with the children at all times.

(8)(a)

The registered provider proposes to ensure there are two staff on the premises at all times.

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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.
- (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

#### Requirement met:

(1)(a)

The service has two large early years rooms that have been developed with toys, play materials and areas of interest. The rooms are appropriately resourced for the play and stimulation of the children. The proposed third room is also equipped and resourced with appropriate toys and equipment for the children.

(b)

There are rest areas provided in all the early years rooms in the service. These rest areas consist of large comfortable leather couches for the children to relax on. There are soft mats on the floors of the rest area for the comfort of the children. There are adequate sleep facilities provided for the proposed increase in the number of children to attend the service. There are three floor beds and bedding available in the service.

(3)

There are two enclosed outdoor areas that are accessed directly from the service. The area to the front of the service consists of a large, tarmacadam surfaced area where children can play on the ride on toys available in the service. The area to the rear of the service consists of a large, grassed area. This area contains goal posts and a large wooden jungle gym for children to play on. The play areas are safe, suitable, and secure. There is a large shed for the storage of ride on toys available for the children.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 registered provider is aware of the nutritional requirements for children attending a full day care service. The service has a healthy eating policy detailing the proposed schedule for the provision of hot meals and snacks to children attending on a full day care basis. A proposed weekly menu is in place in the service detailing the food available for children who will be attending on a full day care basis.

Drinking bottles are provided by the parents. Additional water is provided from the public water system. The registered provider has contacted the Environmental Health Service in relation to the safe storage and preparation of food for the proposed full day care children 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:

#### General safety:

The openings of the windows are restricted with appropriate restrictive opening devices that can be removed in the event of the window being needed as a means of escape.

There are no loose cords evident on the windows in the early years rooms. The toys are suitable with no sharp edges that could injure a child. Toys observed were suitable and easily cleanable. The fire doors are not obstructed.

#### Infection control:

Fridges are available in the service where it is proposed to store the perishable items of children's snacks and meals. All bins in the care rooms and toilet facilities are pedal operated and lidded.

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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
  - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

#### Requirement met:

- (1)  
There is a person trained in first aid for children who is immediately available to the children attending the early years service.
- (2)  
A suitably equipped first aid box is available in the care room of the service and is easily accessible in the event of it being needed.

### 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:

- (1)(a)  
The registered provider is aware of the requirement to carry out monthly fire drills in the premises. There is a template in the service to record the monthly fire drills.
- (b)  
The annual record of the maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm in the service documented that it was carried out in September 2023.
- (4)  
A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire is displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises at the entrance to the service.

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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement 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:

- (a)  
The registered provider reports there are no known defects in the building.
- (b)  
The building is safe and secure. Access is gained through the front door. Visitors to the service can be observed through the glass doors at the entrance to the service. There is a fence around the entrance to prevent children running out of the early years rooms unaccompanied.
- (c)  
The lighting is a combination of natural lighting from several windows and there are also fluorescent lights available in the early years rooms. The early years rooms are ventilated through openable windows and large glass doors. There are openable windows provided in the children’s toilets.

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(d)

The premises is clean and well maintained. There is no evidence of repairs being required.

(e)

There are five toilets and four wash hand basins for use by the early years children. There is one staff toilet for the use of the staff working in the service. There is liquid hand soap, paper towels and pedal bins available at all sinks. The sewage is managed through the public system.

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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.
- (3) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—
- a sessional pre-school service, and
  - 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).

#### Requirement met:

Room	Measurements	Age of children	No of sessional children that can be accommodated	No of full day care children that can be accommodated
Toddler room	32.6 square meters	2 to 6 years	18	13
ECCE 1	31.5 square meters	2 to 6 years	17	13
ECCE 2 (New room)	35.5 square meters	2 to 6 years	19	15

(1)

There is adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the early years service.

(2)

The care rooms provide adequate clear floor space as specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 with reference to the proposed ages of children which the service will accommodate.

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(3)

The service has adequate floor space for the numbers of children proposed to be facilitated in the service during the full day care hours. The service has suitable space for the provision of both:

- (a) A sessional service.
- (b) Full day care/part-time service.