

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D:** TU2015WX081

**Name of Service** Little Rascals Playschool

**Address of Service:** C/o Riverchapel Community Centre  
Riverchapel  
Gorey  
Co. Wexford

**Email Address:** brigiddoyle@hotmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Ms. Brigid Doyle

<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:** Change from sessional to part time care.

**Proposed Number of Children:** No increase in the overall number of children.

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Part-Time

**Registered change:** Part-Time

**Date of Inspection:** 1 5 0 8 2 0 2 3

**Inspection undertaken by:** Colette Ryan

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Tusla child and family agency  
Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
Change from sessional to part time

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Part-Time Service, 08:00 – 13:00 or 09:00 – 14:00
<b>Date of Registration</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> August 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 Rascals Playschool is a privately operated early years service in Riverchapel. It offers a play based programme to children 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 9.00am to 12.30pm and currently accommodate 57 children.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to operate a part time service to support and meet the needs of the children and families within the locality. The part time service will operate from 8am to 2pm with early years children attending for no longer than 5 hours.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service is located within the community hall. It consists of an entrance hall, three play-rooms and sanitary accommodation. An outdoor garden and play area are available to the front and side of the premises.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The registered provider will be the designated person in charge and will be on the premises daily. The registered provider will work directly with the children in the service and holds a childcare qualification at Level 8 Honours in Early Childhood Education and Care. The current staff working in the service held the minimum Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at level 5, 6 and 8 qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education 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) (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</p>

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	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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment	
<i>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—</i> <i>(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement of the regulation is met.  The registered provider is the designated person in charge and assists across the rooms with the children as needed. A second named staff member is available to deputise as required.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels	
<i>(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.</i> <i>(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—</i> <i>(a) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a childminding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement of the regulation is met.  (1) The registered provider is familiar with the Child Care Act 1991(Early Years Services) Regulations 2016, schedule 6 Adult: Child ratios and will ensure that there is at all times adequate numbers of adults working directly with the children attending the service.  (8)(a) The registered provider is aware of the requirement to have two staff present once the service is registered as part time.

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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 or
  - (b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

#### Requirement met:

The requirement of the regulation is met:

(1)(a)

The service operates from three rooms in the community hall. The playrooms provide sufficient space for the number of children attending the service. The rooms are bright, warm and lit by natural lighting, supplemented by artificial lighting when needed. The rooms were set up with child sized tables and chairs and equipped with toys and materials suitable to the ages and stages of development of the children who will attend the service. Areas of interest included reading area, home corner, relaxation area, imaginative play areas and art and crafts materials.

(1)(b)

Provisions are in place for children to rest while attending the service and includes soft sofas in a quiet corner of the room. The registered provider purchased sleep mats and bed linen and has identified an area within the room for rest and sleep.

(3)(a)(b)

The children have access to outdoor play spaces to the side and front of the community hall. The outdoor areas are fully enclosed. The outdoor play area is suitable and safe.

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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:

The requirements of the regulation are met.

Parents will provide food for mid- morning break time and for lunch. Fridges are available for the storage of food and snacks brought in from home. The service will provide additional food for children in the case that a child is hungry, forgets their lunch or requires extra food. The registered provider has updated the service’s healthy eating policy to reflect the requirements for part time care.

### 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 of regulation is met:

#### Infection Control:

- Hot water for hygienic hand washing was available and was thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C. The service was clean and well maintained.
- Pest control contracts were in place.

#### Administration of Medication:

- There was a policy on the safe administration of medications to children attending the service. An area for the safe storage of medication was identified. The registered provider stated that a care plan will be developed in partnership with parents for any child who requires a regular prescribed medication while attending the service.

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	<p>General Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The entrance door to the service was secured by an electronic keypad to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining access to the building.</li> </ul>
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Part VI - Safety	
Regulation 25 – First Aid	
<p>(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.</p> <p>(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.</p>	
Requirement met:	<p>The requirement of the regulation is met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>There are staff members with updated training in first aid for children available on the premises.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b)</p> <p>A suitably equipped first aid box was available on the premises.</p>

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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 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 of the regulation is met.

(1)(a)

Records were available on the premises for the recording of fire drills and the registered provider was familiar with the requirement to carry monthly fire drills.

(b)

Fire- fighting equipment, a fire detection system and smoke alarms were available, and contracts are in place for the service and maintenance of same.

(4)

A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the playrooms.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The requirement of the regulation is met.

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that insurance was in place to cover the number of children attending.

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.

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### 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 registered provider confirmed that there were no known structural issues in the premises.

(b)

The premises were safe and secure. The doors of the service were secured to prevent the children exiting the premises unsupervised or an unauthorised person gaining access to the premises.

(c)

The playrooms were lit and ventilated by natural light through openable windows on external walls, supplemented by artificial lighting when needed. New windows were installed in the caterpillar room following the last inspection 17 November 2022. The light fittings had appropriate safety covers. All sanitary accommodation was ventilated through roof windows. The heating system was thermostatically controlled so that the surface temperature of the radiators in each room does not exceed 50°C.

(d)

The premises were clean, well maintained and in good repair. A cleaning policy and schedule was available for the service.

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	<p>(e)</p> <p>The service has adequate sanitary accommodation for the number of children and staff who will be present in the service at any one time. There are four toilets and two nappy changing units allocated for use by the children. The staff have their own designated staff toilets.</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.*
- 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).*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement of the regulation is met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>Adequate clear floor space was available to accommodate the number of children who will attend the service on both a sessional and part time basis.</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>The ladybird room is large and bright and measures 80 square metres. The registered provider currently accommodates 22 children (aged between 2 and 6 years) attending on a sessional basis in this room. The registered provider proposes to accommodate up to 16 children attending as part time at any one time. The</p>
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caterpillar room measures 38 square meters and currently accommodates 13 children attending on a sessional basis. The registered provider proposes to accommodate up to 8 children attending as part time at any one time in this room.

(3) This requirement has been met.

(4) This requirement has been met.