

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015WX087

Name of Service Maple Tree Nursery

Address of Service: Ballyanne, New Ross, Co Wexford.

Email Address: mapletreedaycare@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: John and Catriona Brennan

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: To increase the maximum number of children the service can accommodate from 57 to 80 children.

Proposed Number of Children: 80

Recommended Change Following Inspection: 80

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 57 to 80.

Date of Inspection:	3	0	0	1	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: E Mc Garry

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 of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 80 Children
Date of Registration	13 th March 2024

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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	<p>This full day care service is located in a rural setting just outside the town of New Ross. The service caters for children aged from 6 months to 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 8.00am and 6.00pm. An Early Years Care and Education (ECCE) program is provided also. The service is also registered to provide a school age service. The registered providers propose to increase the number of children the service can accommodate from 57 to 80 children. It is proposed that the increased number would be accommodated in the recently constructed senior ECCE room. This room would accommodate children aged from 3 to 6 years of age.</p>
Premises	<p>The premises is situated on the ground floor of the registered providers' home. The service consists of 6 preschool rooms, a baby room for children aged from 6 months to 2 years, a wobbler room for children aged from 1 to 2 years, a playgroup room for children aged from 1 to 2 years, a preschool room, junior ECCE 1 for children aged from 3 to 6. There is also a recently constructed senior ECCE room. There are toilets, nappy changing facilities, a kitchen, one sleep room, a large hall and access to a safe and secure outdoor play area to the rear of the service.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are 17 staff employed in the service. All staff who work directly with the children are qualified in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.</p>
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</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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	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.
Additional Information	The service was found to be operating the change prior to approval from the Registration Office.
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and person in charge 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 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.

Requirement met:

There are currently 17 staff employed in the service. 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.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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:

(1)(a)

The recently constructed senior ECCE room has been developed with toys, play materials and areas of interest. The service is working with a quality development programme and part of the focus of this work will include a review of environments in the setting.

(b)

There is a rest area provided in the room. This area consists of large comfortable leather bean bags for the children to relax on.

(3)

There is a large enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the service. There is a large, tarmacked 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 space contains goal posts and a large wooden jungle gym for children to play on. There is another area for younger children consisting of slides and small suitable climbing frames. The play areas are safe, suitable, and secure. There is a shed for the storage of ride on toys available for the children.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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 and sessional basis. Parents will continue to provide all snacks for the children. The service provides hot meals from an off-site company which delivers meals to the service. These meals are reheated and served to the children who attend on a full day care basis. Drinking bottles are provided by the parents. Additional water is provided from the public water system.
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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>General safety:</p> <p>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 preschool room. Toys observed were suitable and easily cleanable. The fire doors are not obstructed.</p> <p>Infection control:</p> <p>The proposed newly constructed room was clean on the day of inspection. 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.</p>
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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:	(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.
Requirement not met:	There is currently no staff member qualified in a first aid responder course for children immediately available to the children attending the service. The service is required to have at least one staff member trained in a first aid responder course for children available in the service. The inspector has received evidence that the registered provider has booked two staff to complete a first aid responder course in March 2024.
Summary Comment:	The action submitted is appropriate to address this requirement once completed, evidence of completion has been requested to be submitted once available. This regulation will be assessed again on next inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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:	<p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The registered providers are aware of the requirement to carry out monthly fire drills in the service. There is a template in the service to record the monthly fire drills. The last fire drill was carried out in the service in December 2023.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>The annual maintenance of the firefighting equipment was carried out in December 2023. The smoke alarm in the service was last serviced in November 2023.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>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.</p>
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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:	There is insurance in place for the proposed 80 preschool children. The current policy expires 28 March 2024.
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 providers report there are no known defects in the building.
- (b)
The building is safe and secure. Access is gained through the side gate. Visitors to the service can be observed as they approach from the carpark. The gate is secured with a lock which can be opened by the staff to allow parents to access the service.
- (c)
The lighting is a combination of natural lighting from several windows and there are also fluorescent lights available in the preschool room. The preschool room is ventilated through openable windows and a large glass door which opens directly on to the outdoor play area. There are openable windows provided in the children’s toilets.
- (d)
The premises is clean and well maintained. There is no evidence of repairs being required.
- (e)
There are 8 toilets and 8 wash hand basins for use by the preschool children. There are two nappy changing units in the service with two sinks for handwashing located directly beside the units. Staff have a separate sanitary facility also available 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.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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:

Room	Size	Age	Max capacity
Baby room	21.73 m ²	0-1 years	6 FDC
Wobbler room	24.08 m ²	0-2 years	8 FDC
Playgroup room	29.4 m ²	1-3 years	10 FDC
Preschool room	35.7 m ²	1-3 years	12 FDC
Junior ECCE room	41.8 m ²	3-5 years	22 sessional
Newly constructed Senior ECCE room	46.74 m ²	3-5 years	22 sessional

(1)

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