

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2016DL003							
Name of Service	Honey Bees Pre-school							
Address of Service:	Main Street, Muff, Donegal, F93 H2TH							
Email Address:	honeybeespreschool@outlook.com							
Name of Registered Provider:	Susan McColgan and Donna McGonigle							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓		
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	The service proposed to change in number of children that can be accommodated in the ladybird and butterfly rooms.							
Proposed Number of Children:	88							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	It is recommended that the capacity of the service increase to 88 children at any one time.							
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 76 to 88							
Date of Inspection:	2	7	0	4	2	0	2	3
Inspection undertaken by:	L Mc Glynn							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94							

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time / Sessional Service for 88 Children
Date of Registration	26 th May 2023

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	Honey bees preschool is a privately owned and operated early years' service located in the border town of Muff, Co. Donegal. The service currently provides sessional and part time care to children aged 2-6 years and operates during the school year.
Premises	The service operates from part of a two-storey commercial unit that has been purposely adapted for the provision of an early years' service. There are three playrooms, one at ground floor level and two on the first floor. The premises also includes an office, storage and sanitary facilities. A spacious outdoor play area is directly accessible from the ground floor playroom.
Staffing	There are a total of eight staff members currently employed within the service who work directly with the children, this includes the two registered providers.
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 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>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers who were present on the day of the inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) There was a named designated person in charge and a named person appointed to deputise when required.

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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The service currently has 56 preschool children enrolled to attend with eight staff members employed. The allocation of staff to children currently enrolled is accepted as meeting the required adult child ratios.

(2) The registered provider confirmed that they are aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6 and will ensure that an adequate number of adults will at all times work directly with the number of children attending the service.

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.*

Requirement met:

(1)(a) This requirement has been met.

Having regard to the number and age range of preschool children which the service proposes to cater for and the amount of time they spend on the premises there were adequate and suitable indoor play facilities in place. The premises contained three playrooms catering for children aged 2 years and over. The learning environments within each of the rooms were appropriate to the age and developmental stage of the children attending and proposed to attend.

The rooms presented as bright and visually appealing spaces with an orderly arrangement of play equipment and materials set into clearly defined areas of interest. These included arts and crafts, construction, small world items, dress up props, play kitchen areas, library's, relaxing areas, problem solving toys and wide range of manipulative play resources. Open low level shelving units enabled all items to be readily accessible to the children and suitable sized tables and chairs were available for tabletop activities.

The was a substantial stock of additional play resources in storage within the building which were readily accessible to staff and the inspector was informed that play materials and resources were rotated throughout the year in each of the rooms.

Adequate and suitable outdoor play facilities were in place with a dedicated area at the side of the building fully enclosed for children’s play. Ground cover consisted of a combination of stone pebble walkways, concrete, bark and impact absorbent material. The area was sufficient in size to accommodate large groups of children to engage in energetic play. A small, closely knit group of mature trees contained a low-level tree house and a wooden painted ship and anchor. Outside of this was a section containing a climb, swing and slide unit and large rubber tyres. Other play areas included a building and construction area, kitchen area, vegetable trough and farm play area.

(1)(b) Stackable floor beds were available for children to sleep and were equipped with appropriate bedding. Each of the rooms were resourced with suitable and comfortable rest areas including soft floor mats, soft cushions and couches.

(2) (a) The boundary of the outdoor play area was secured with a combination of dense hedging and wire fencing, the gable of the preschool building and a stone wall. The location of the outdoor play area on site allowed for unrestricted daily access.

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:

This requirement has been met.

Children’s food and drink provisions were provided from home. A fridge was available in each playroom for the safe storage of perishable food items. The service had a healthy eating policy which provided guidance to parents and promoted healthier options. Children bring their own water drink bottles, and the service has a supply of drinking water and milk. Appropriate crockery and cutlery is available for use if required.

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 following measures were noted on the day of inspection to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.

- Provisions were made to prevent children exiting unsupervised and adults gaining unauthorised entry to the facility by way of secure entry and exit points. The single entrance gate to the outdoor play facility contained a lock mechanism. Emergency exit routes were free from obstruction.
- The stair access to the first floor contained a non-slip surface and double handrail for both adults and children.
- Radiators contained thermostat controls to limit surface temperature and reduce risk of a burn injury.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable hand washing facilities including liquid soap and single use paper towels were provided in the children’s and adults sanitary accommodation and in the preschool rooms. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available in all wash hand basins accessible to children. • The premises and play equipment was visibly clean. Cleaning equipment and materials were stored in a designated storage area that was secured and not accessible to children. Cleaning schedules were available to view and contained details on each of the areas within the preschool rooms and sanitary accommodation to be cleaned, the frequency of cleaning and the method used. • Ventilation was provided in each preschool room and in the sanitary accommodation by way of openable windows. • All exit routes and doors were free from obstruction. Records showed that fire drills had been carried out regularly during the current pre-school year. This allowed for children and adults to be familiar with the procedure in the event of an emergency.
Requirement not met:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A storage area in the outdoor play area containing large waste bins and gardening materials was not secured so that it was inaccessible to children. 2. A metal gate in the outdoor play area was broken with sharp edges exposed which has the potential to cause injury to a preschool child.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The large waste bins have been moved to a fenced off area were the children cannot access. Images of the area were submitted showing no evidence of hazards. 2. The metal gate has been replaced and a photo image of the new gate submitted.
Summary Comment:	The requirements of this regulation have been met.

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:	(1) Both registered providers had up to date training in first aid for children. These were rostered to ensure that an adult with first aid training was on the premises at all times during the service’s hours of operation.
Requirement not met:	(2) (a) (b) a number of items required in the first aid boxes were either unavailable or had past their expiry date including medicated dressings, eye pads and water-based burns dressings.
Response from Provider:	The required items have been added and any out-of-date items replaced. Images of first aid items were submitted.
Summary Comment:	The requirements of this regulation have been met.

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 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:	<p>The requirements of this regulation were met.</p> <p>(1)(a) There was a written record of fire drills that had taken place with the children which were detailed monthly.</p> <p>(b) There was documentation detailing the number and type of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system in the building. The firefighting equipment was last serviced in October 2022 and the smoke alarms tested in June 2022.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the wall in the preschool rooms.</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:	<p>An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection.</p> <p>The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the service. The service approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.</p>
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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:

This requirement has been met.

- (a) The service operates from a two-story building renovated for the purposes of providing an early years' service. The registered provider confirmed that they had no knowledge of any structural defects on the building and on superficial visual inspection, the building appeared of sound and stable structure with no obvious defects.
- (b) The service was adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry.
- (c) An adequate source of heating was provided in the service and sanitary accommodation. This consisted of an oil-fired central heating which was last serviced in June 2022. The air temperature in each playroom on the day of inspection registered within the recommended 18 -22°C range. The lighting was provided by natural light leading from openable windows supplemented with fluorescent ceiling light fittings with protective covers. The preschool rooms and sanitary accommodation were ventilated by openable windows.
- (d) The premises appeared to be in a good state of repair and was clean on the day of inspection. The building was connected to a mains water supply providing appropriate drinking water for staff and children and running water for cleaning.
- (e) The sanitary facilities in the service were adequately equipped with wash hand basins and toilets for the number of children that will be in attendance. There were

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

eight toilets, eight wash hand basins and one nappy changing station available for children's use within the service. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water was available in all hand wash basins accessible to children.

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.

Requirement met:

The service has applied to change the capacity of the ladybird and butterfly rooms. As there was no change to the honeybees room it was not assessed under this regulation.

The clear floor space in the butterfly room measured 75.41m². This meets the space requirements for 41 pre-school children attending to avail of the service's sessional childcare provision and 32 children attending on a part-time basis.

A clear floor area of 39.01m² was measured in the ladybird room which is sufficient to cater for 21 pre-school children attending to avail of the service's sessional childcare provision and 16 children attending on a part-time basis.