

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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| Tusla I.D.: | TU2016LS001 | | | | | | | |
| Name of Service | Early Learning Montessori | | | | | | | |
| Address of Service: | Church Avenue, Stradbally, Co. Laois R32 X6T7 | | | | | | | |
| Email Address: | sheilabconroy@gmail.com | | | | | | | |
| Name of Registered Provider: | Sheila Conroy | | | | | | | |
| Type of Proposed Service: | Full Day Care | <input 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: | Change in Number of Children from 36 to 54. | | | | | | | |
| Proposed Number of Children: | 54 | | | | | | | |
| Recommended Change Following Inspection: | Change the number of children from 36 to 54. | | | | | | | |
| Registered change: | Change in Number of Children from 36 to 54 Children | | | | | | | |
| Date of Inspection: | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Inspection undertaken by: | K. Murphy | | | | | | | |
| Title: | Early Years Inspector | | | | | | | |
| Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: | Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. | | | | | | | |

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

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| Registration Status: | Registered Part-Time & Sessional Service for 54 Children |
| Date of Registration | 11 th April 2025 |

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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).

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| Description of Service | The age range of children that the service is registered to accommodate is 2 to 6 years of age. The service currently operates a part time service on a Monday to Friday basis. The service is operated by an independent provider. |
| Premises | <p>The Early Years' Service is currently located on the ground floor of a two-storey premises. An outdoor play area is attached to the front of the service. Onsite parking and set down facilities are provided. The service is located in the village of Stradbally, County Laois. The premises has been in existence and operating as a pre-school service for a number of years. Two pre-school rooms, sanitary accommodation, a kitchen /office are currently provided.</p> <p>A refurbishment has recently taken place to accommodate a proposed additional pre-school room on the first floor of the service.</p> |
| Staffing | On 11 March 2025 the registered provider facilitated the inspection. |
| 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</p> |

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| | administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body. |
| Acknowledgements | The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the registered provider who was 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.

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| Requirement met: | The requirement has been met. (1)(a) The service has a named designated person in charge with another named staff member able to deputise as required. |
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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.

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| Requirement met: | The requirement has been met. (1) Provision is in place to meet the necessary adult to child ratios for children proposing to attend on sessional or part time allocations. |
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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Suitable and adequate play and work equipment are provided indoors and outdoors which incorporate areas with toys and equipment for arts and crafts, home corners, interest areas, sensory and tabletop activities.

(b)

Soft furnishings provide suitable and adequate rest facilities in the proposed new pre-school room. Low level beds are provided for children over the age of two proposing to attend the service on a part time basis who require sleep or rest.

(3)

An outdoor area is attached to the front of the service. A high-level wall secures the perimeter of the outdoor play area. A variety of play equipment and outdoor toys are available.

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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 requirement has been met.

The parents provide all meals and snacks to the children attending the service.

Refrigerated storage facilities are available. Additional dry, chilled and frozen good are available in the premises to provide additional food if required by a child.

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 has been met.

The entrance door into the service was secure. The emergency exit doors were unobstructed. A designated fire assembly point is located to the rear of the premises.

Cleaning materials are stored out of children’s reach.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

Two adults qualified in first aid response (FAR) are rostered to be on duty during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)(b)

A first aid box stocked with sufficient supplies was in a prominent location in the service.

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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 has been met.

(1)(a)

Provision is in place to record completed monthly fire drills in the premises.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarms on the premises and dated 11 February 2025. A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the fire extinguishers and the smoke detection system in the premises and dated February 2025.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the proposed pre-school room.

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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:

The requirement has been 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:

The requirement has been met.

(a)

The main premises which have been in existence for several years has recently undergone some remedial and structural works and visually appear to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

The side gate and main door to the service are secure. A bell and camera system at the side gate is used to alert staff to facilitate entry upon identification.

(c)

In the proposed new pre-school room high level sash windows provide both natural light and ventilation.

The light fittings were covered and fully operational to provide adequate artificial light to the proposed pre-school room and the sanitary accommodation.

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An oil-fired central heating system is in place in the service with a radiator in place in the proposed pre-school room. An environmental temperature of approximately 18 degrees Celsius was recorded in both the proposed pre-school room and the sanitary accommodation.

Wastewater and sewage are removed from the premises by means of the public drainage system.

Potable drinking water is supplied to the premises by means of the public water supply.

(d)

The floors and walls were in a good state of repair and maintenance. A cleaning schedule was available for the service and records were in place. A pest control system is in place with bait boxes reviewed by an external pest control company on a scheduled basis. The most recent scheduled visit noted was 03 March 2025.

Waste and refuse are removed daily to externally located and secure closed bins. A contractor for the collection of refuse bins has been engaged by the service to collect refuse from the premises on a scheduled basis.

(e)

The required sanitary facilities have been provided. Two water closets and two wash hand basins have been provided in the individual sanitary accommodation attached to the proposed pre-school room to cater for the additional children proposing to attend.

The sanitary accommodation is ventilated by means of mechanical ventilation.

Sanitary accommodation is stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towel.

The wash hand basins are plumbed with an instantaneous supply of hot and cold water. A temperature of 32 degrees Celsius was noted.

Separate sanitary facilities are available and designated for staff use.

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.*
- (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).*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

Floor space for the work, play and movement of an additional eighteen children aged 2-6 years proposing to attend is available in the proposed new pre-school room.

(2)

The proposed new pre-school room located on the first floor with an area of approximately 34 m² in line with the floor plans submitted ensures that sufficient clear floor space is available in respect of eighteen children aged 2 to 6 years to attend on a sessional basis or fourteen children to attend on a part time basis.

(4)(a)(b)

In a contemporaneous situation a minimum of 1.818 square metres is available for children proposing to attend on a sessional basis.