

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2016MH004								
<b>Name of Service</b>	Little Scholars Creche								
<b>Address of Service:</b>	The Parish Centre, Maynooth Road, Dunboyne, Co. Meath, A86 FD26								
<b>Email Address:</b>	littlescholarsoakparish@gmail.com								
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Lisa Byrne Farrell								
<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>		<b>Part-Time</b>		<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>				
<b>Proposed change:</b>	Addition of a second morning session, hours of operation: 9.15am – 12.15pm. Change in number of children from 22 to 33								
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	33 children are proposed								
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	Additional morning session from 9.15am – 12.15pm. Number of children can be accommodated 33 children.								
<b>Registered change:</b>	Additional morning session from 9.15am – 12.15pm. Number of children can be accommodated 33 children.								
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	1	0	8	2	0	2	3	
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Sandra Cully & Deirdre Murray								
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors								
<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath								

<b>Rationale for Inspection:</b>
<b>Proposed Change of Circumstance</b>

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Additional morning session from 9.15am – 12.15pm. Number of children can be accommodated at any one time 33 children.
<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 Scholars Creche provides sessional care and education to children aged between 2 years 5 months and 6 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. The current session operates from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm. School-age children attend the service in the afternoon.</p> <p>This service proposes the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The addition of a second ECCE room called the Larch room to operate from 9.15 am – 12.15 pm.</li> <li>• To increase the number of children accommodated in the service from 22 to 33.</li> <li>• To increase the number of staff employed from 5 to 6.</li> </ul>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service is situated in the Oak Parish Centre in the town of Dunboyne. The existing care room is the Maple room and can accommodate 22 sessional preschool children. The proposed new session will operate from a room across the hallway known as the Larch room.</p> <p>The service also consists of sanitary facilities, an outdoor space to the rear of the premises and access to a large recreational hall.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>There are currently 5 staff members employed in the service. This will increase to 6 on approval of proposed changes.</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 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>	<p>The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge who was present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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## 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:

The requirement has been met.

The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirements have been met.

(1) The registered provider has ensured that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service. The following is purposed:

- The Maple room (current sessional room) will have 3 staff members to 22 children ranging from the ages of 2 years 5 months to 6 years.
- The Larch room (additional sessional room) will have 2 staff members with 11 children ranging from the ages of 2 years 5 months to 6 years.

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## 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.

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

#### (1)(a)

- The Larch room is not available for the sole use of the registered provider until the end of August. On the day of the inspection the room was set up to demonstrate the proposed use of the space, although the equipment used to do so was not the equipment that will resource this room in September. The provisional set up included a reading area, a shelving unit for Montessori materials, tables and chairs, arts and crafts area, storage unit with construction play materials, small world play materials and dress -up clothes. The designated person in charge assured that the room layout and materials will be similar to the Maple room, the existing preschool room, which on the day of the inspection was observed to be well-resourced, organised and suitable for preschool care. Receipts of purchased equipment and resources were provided as evidence that the room will be well-resourced.
- The preschool children have access to an outdoor space located at the rear of the building. Equipment for use is stored in outdoor storage boxes, containing balance boards, balls, cones, large cars/trucks etc.
- A recreational hall in the centre is available for use for organised activities or when weather restricts the use of the outdoor space.

#### (b) The requirement has been met.

- Cosy areas consisting of mats, fold-up sofa bed and soft furnishings and toys were available in the Larch room.

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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 preschool child attending the preschool service.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.  
The children will bring their own snacks and water bottles to the service. Fridges were available for the storage of perishable foods. A healthy eating policy is available for 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 preschool child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- The main entrance was secured with an electronically locked door.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children.
- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- Thermostatically controlled running water was available at the wash hand basins in the service. Liquid soap and electronic hand dryers were available for the children's and staff members use.
- The furniture in the care rooms were suitable for children, stable and safe.
- A weekly cleaning checklist template was available.

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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 preschool 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) An adequate number of staff had up to date First Aid Responder certification.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and were safely stored in a readily accessible position in the care rooms.

### 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 on 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 on the premises.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been partially met.

(1)(a) Records were available to show that fire drills take place in the service on a monthly basis.

(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The smoke detection system was last serviced on 26/6/2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were on display in the service.

#### Requirement not met:

The records showed that the firefighting equipment was last serviced in May 2022.

#### Response from Provider:

Maintenance of the firefighting equipment was carried out on 15/08/2023.

#### Summary Comment:

The inspector has reviewed and accepted the evidence submitted by the registered provider. The requirements for Regulation 26 have been met.

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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the preschool service is adequately insured.*

#### Requirement met:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection for a total of 38 children. 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 provider's 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 partially met.

(a) On visual inspection the premises appeared to be structurally sound.

(b) The building appeared to be safe and was found to be appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years' service.

(c)

#### Lighting:

The premises was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

#### Heating:

The premises was heated by means of gas-fired central heating. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection.

#### Ventilation:

Ventilation in the care rooms was provided by means of openable windows. The internal sanitary accommodation and nappy changing areas were fitted with mechanical ventilation units.

(d) The premises was in a clean condition and in a good state of repair.

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	(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation including nappy changing facilities were available in the service.
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	(b) The outdoor area was not appropriately secured to prevent a preschool child from gaining easy access to a car park located at the rear of the building.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	An appropriate wooden barrier has been built and installed to provide a more secure boundary to the outdoor area to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and restrict access by an unauthorised person.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The inspector has reviewed and accepted the evidence submitted by the registered provider. The requirements for Regulation 29 have been met.

### 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.*

*(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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space was available in the premises for the work, play and movement of the 33 children proposed.</p> <p>(3) The registered provider ensured that a minimum of 1.818 m<sup>2</sup> of clear floor space was available for each child attending the service on a sessional basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Maple Room (existing session): Free floor space available was 40.57m<sup>2</sup>. This provides sufficient space for the proposed 22 children between the ages of 2 years 5 months to 6 years attending on a sessional basis.</li> <li>• The Larch Room: Free floor space available was 25.78m<sup>2</sup>. This provides sufficient space for the proposed 11 children between the ages of 2 years 5 months to 6 years attending on a sessional basis.</li> </ul>
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