

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2017KE506

Name of Service: Bright Beginnings

Address of Service: St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town, Co. Kildare, R51XY30

Email Address: brightbegoffice@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Audrey Lynch

Type of Proposed Service: <i>(Tick the relevant services)</i>	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change to service: To increase to the number of children that can be accommodated in the service at any one time due to the addition of one pre-school room.

Proposed Number of Children: 46

Registered Change: Increase of children from 22 to 46
Additional sessions to include part-time
Hours of operation 08:45am -13:45pm

Date of Inspection:	2	6	1	1	2	0	2	1
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Inspection undertaken by: Fiona Maher

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare

Rationale for Inspection :

Proposed Change of Circumstance	Increase the number of children that can be accommodated from 22 to 46 with the addition of two pre-school rooms, increase the number of staff from 2 to 6 and change the hours to include a part-time service from 08:45-13:45hours.
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Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Panel

Registration Status:	Registered Part-Time Sessional service for 46children from 0845am – 13.45pm
Date of Registration	13/12/2021

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>Bright Beginnings has been operating as a sessional service since 2017 on the grounds of St. Brigid’s primary school in Kildare town and currently caters for 22 pre-school children aged 2 years and 8 months - 6 years old.</p> <p>The service opens from 08:45hrs-11:45hrs, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the school year.</p> <p>The proposed change as advised by the registered provider is to increase the number of pre-school children the service can accommodate with the provision of two further pre-school rooms on the grounds of the primary school and to increase the hours of operation to include a part-time service.</p>
Premises	<p>One pre-school room is currently provided in a standalone prefabricated unit on the grounds of the primary school. A secure outdoor play area is available with direct access form the pre-school room. The two new additional pre-school rooms will be located in a standalone prefabricated unit also on the grounds of the primary school and a short distance from the current premises.</p>
Staffing	<p>It is proposed that four childcare staff be working directly with the children.</p> <p>The childcare staff in the service hold qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.</p>
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced Focused 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 three themes; Governance, 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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving registration.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the service manager and deputy manager on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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.

(1)(a)

The registered provider has designated a person in charge and a named person 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The registered provider has appointed four staff members to work in the proposed additional pre-school rooms to ensure the required adult /child ratios are maintained.

(8)(b)

Not applicable as this is not a childminding service.

(c)

Not applicable as this is not a sessional service that operates single-handedly.

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.*
- (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*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a), (b)

The proposed additional pre-school rooms were bright and spacious and constructively planned and resourced to cater for the age range of children which will be attending an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) sessional and/or part-time service. A sufficient and appropriate number of child sized tables and chairs to cater for the proposed number of pre-school children were available. A suitable area has been provided for children to play outdoors with direct access from the pre-school. Suitable rest areas for children were available in the pre-school rooms and low-level beds were available for any child attending on a part-time basis requiring a period of sleep.

(4)

A suitable secure area has been provided for children to play outdoors. Newly purchased wooden play equipment has been added to the outdoor play area to supplement current play equipment. The play area is situated adjacent to the prefabricated unit and is surrounded by high fencing on one perimeter and secured by a locked gate at the side entrance to the school.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

Regulation 22. *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.

A healthy eating policy is in place in the service.
Parents will be requested to provide the healthy snacks/lunch for their child for the hours spent in the service. Drinking water is available in the service and will be available at all times for the children.

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 main entrance door to the proposed unit will be secured with a key and controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The door key will be available to staff at all times.

Window blind cords were secured out of reach of the children and the emergency exit doors were unobstructed.

A supply of drinking water is available in the service and a fridge is available for the safe storage of perishable food items.

There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in the pre-school rooms and sanitary areas. Additional measures have been put in place to mitigate against the spread of Covid-19 in the service. Hand sanitizer is available in each room and policies and procedures regarding specific measures to address the risks associated with the corona virus are in place.

All cupboards and drawers were fitted with child proof locks and cleaning agents were stored out of children's reach.

The radiators in the service and the hot water supply at the wash hand basins are thermostatically controlled and regulated.

There was sufficient space to store children's belongings in the lobby area between the pre-school rooms.

The fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

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)

Current certification in relation to first aid for children was available for the staff members that will be working in the service.

(2)(a),(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box is available and accessible to children and was observed stored in a conspicuous position in the pre-school.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Documentation was available for recording monthly fire drills.

(b)

The firefighting equipment was serviced and dated August 2021.

The smoke alarm system has a maintenance contract in place and was last serviced August 2021.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was clearly displayed within the pre-school rooms.

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.

The registered provider had evidence of insurance cover, for 46 children. The insurance cover was valid to February 28th 2021.

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 additional pre-school rooms are located in one standalone prefabricated unit on the grounds of the local primary school, and it is maintained in a good state of repair.

(b)
 There is one point of entry to the premises, and this will be locked and controlled by staff members. High perimeter fencing and a secure gate encloses the pre-school on the school grounds to prevent a child leaving the area unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.

(c)
 There are openable windows in the proposed pre-school rooms and sanitary accommodation providing natural daylight and ventilation. Supplemental artificial lighting is also provided from covered ceiling strip lights in both additional rooms. Electric storage heating provides the heating for both rooms.

(d)
 Cleaning schedules are in place and the premises and its environs were clean and well maintained.

(e)
 Adequate sanitary facilities have been provided in the service.
 Four toilets and four wash hand basins are provided for children’s use in the proposed additional two pre-school rooms.
 Staff toilet and wash hand basin facilities are available in the adjacent school building for adults in the pre-school.

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).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1), (2)

A total clear floor space of 51.7m² and 51.4m² is available in the proposed two pre-school rooms respectively for the maximum daily attendance of 44 pre-school children on a part-time basis aged between 2-6 years of age.

(4) (a),(b)

There is adequate floor space to accommodate 46 children who may attend during the operation of a concurrent sessional service.