

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2017LK500

Name of Service Little Buddies Preschool

Address of Service: Knocknasna, Abbeyfeale, Co Limerick V94 W263

Email Address: Clars89daly@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Clara Daly

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: From sessional to part time care & sessional
Opening hours from 09:30-12:30 to 09:15 -14:15

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: From sessional to part time care & sessional
Opening hours from 09:30-12:30 to 09:15 -14:15

Registered change: Change in service type from sessional to part-time & sessional
Change in hours from 09:30– 12:30 to 09:15 – 14:15

Date of Inspection:	2	6	0	8	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: E Browne

Title: Early years inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla, Early years inspectorate, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick

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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 22 Children
Date of Registration	29th August 2025

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>The service is registered to provide a sessional service for children aged 2 – 6 years, Monday – Friday 09:30 – 12:30 for 38 weeks of the year, including the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme for eligible children.</p> <p>The service is registered to cater for 22 preschool children in the morning for sessional care.</p> <p>The service proposes to provide part time care from 09:15 to 14:15 each day.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from Knocknasna National school which is located a short distance from Abbeyfeale, Co Limerick.</p> <p>The service has a separate building to the school with sole use of a large playroom, bathroom facilities for the children and adults. The children have access to the school yard and sports field.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider and three adults are working directly with the children each day. The adults all hold a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education. An additional adult is available to cover in the event of an emergency if required.</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</p>

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	<p>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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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 requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The registered provider is the designated person in charge each day and there is a named person who is able to deputise if 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 will ensure that there will be an adequate number of staff employed to work in the service each day. The staff roster demonstrated that the service has 4 staff members working directly with the 22 preschool children in the morning and 4 staff members present up until 14:15 pm each day, commencing in September 2025.

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*

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Requirement met:	<p>(1)(a) There is one large playroom in operation on the premises. The playroom has a number of designated interest areas that are resourced with a wide variety of materials including real, natural and sensory resources. The environment is visually pleasing, and resources are displayed at the child’s eye level to support the children to think and extend their learning, natural curiosity and sense of wonder.</p> <p>(b) The playroom has a designated rest area with bean bags, couches and floor rug for children to use throughout the morning. There are two sleep mats available for the children who may need to relax and sleep, and these will be accommodated appropriately in an area of the playroom.</p> <p>(2)(a) The service has access to an outdoor play area on the school yard and sensory garden area to the rear of the premises. The area is fully enclosed and is equipped with a wide range of play materials.</p> <p>(3)(a) The services outdoor area is available on the premises.</p> <p>(b) Not applicable</p>
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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:	<p>The service will ensure that the drinks, foods/meals provided will be suitable, varied and nutritious for the children attending the service. Additional snacks outside mealtimes will be available to the preschool children.</p> <p>There are facilities to refrigerate as required.</p> <p>The healthy eating policy for the service has been updated in line with the requirements for a part time service. The updated policy is available in the service for parents and staff to view.</p>
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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

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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>The entrance door to the service will be closed during the hours of operation and there is a bell entry system at the main entrance.</p> <p>The emergency exit doors are unobstructed and clear.</p> <p>The policies and procedures for the service have been updated in line with the operation of a part time service.</p> <p>A safe storage area is in place at the service main entrance hall for the children's belongings.</p> <p>There is a separate area for the storage for cleaning materials and equipment's for the service.</p> <p>A large fridge is available for the storage of perishable food in the playroom.</p> <p>There is provision for safe storage of medications in the service if required.</p>
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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 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:	<p>The requirement has been met</p> <p>(1) There were two staff working in the service who had current first aid responder certification with an expiry date in October 2025 and January 2026.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) The first aid box is readily identifiable and accessible to the staff working in the service. The fully equipped first aid box is stored safely in the playroom and available to the children.</p>
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Part VI – Safety

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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) A record was available with the monthly fire drills documented from January to June 2025. The last recorded fire drill was June 2025.

(b) A maintenance record for the firefighting equipment dated 30th of May 2025 and for the fire alarm system dated November 2024 were on file.

(4) A fire assembly point was identified in the main school yard. The notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the main entrance area of the service.

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 current insurance certificate indicates cover for 22 children to attend the proposed part time service. The certificate expiry date is the 27th of March 2026.

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,

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(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Requirement met:

(a) The building was refurbished in the 2017 and it appears to be well maintained with no obvious defects.

(b) The entrance and emergency door to the service will be closed and a bell entry system is in place at the main entrance. All persons entering and leaving the building must be escorted by a staff member. The physical environment is safe and secure for purpose of a preschool service.

(c) The playroom is an inviting bright environment with sufficient windows that provides enough light and comfort for activities. There is a balance between natural and artificial lighting.

The radiators in the playroom are all fitted with fixed guards.

The service will ensure the playroom and sanitary accommodation will be maintained within the following temperature limits of 18 to 22 degrees Celsius. The heating system last date of servicing was on the 19th of August 2025.

Openable windows are provided in the sanitary accommodation.

(e) The facility has 2 single toilets cubicles and two wash hand basins available for the 22 preschool children. The hot water was thermostatically controlled at the recommended temperature of no more than 43^o C. Nappy changing facilities are provided with an updated nappy changing policy in line with the Management of Infectious Diseases for Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings. Pedal operated bins are available for disposing of general waste and a sealed, lidded, and pedal operated bin for nappy disposal.

Paper towel dispenser is available to facilitate effective hand drying.

Separate adult toilet facilities are available for the staff.

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.

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(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:

(1) The requirement has been met.

The playroom measured 52.32 m² and there is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement of the children attending the preschool service.

(2) A minimum of 1.818 m² of clear floor space is available for each child proposing to attend for sessional care and 2.3 m² for the children attending for part time care.