

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2018CC512

Name of Service: Eager Einstein's Preschool Montessori

Address of Service: C/O Whitegate National School
Whitegate
Midleton
Co Cork
P25 AO62

Email Address: eagereinsteins@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ailbhe Young

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional	
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Service proposes to offer a part time service

Proposed Number of Children: 20

Recommended Change Following Inspection: From September 2023 a maximum of 20 children propose to attend the part time service at any one time.
A maximum of 22 children can attend the sessional service at any one time.

Registered change: Adding additional service type – Part-time Day Care (Maximum 20 Children at any one time)
Change in Hours of Operation to 09:00 – 13:30

Date of Inspection:	1	7	0	4	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: Ms. M. O'Reilly

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate
Administration Building
St Mary's Health Campus
Gurranabraher
Cork
T23X440

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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 for Part Time 09:00 – 13:30 (Maximum 20 children) & Sessional (Maximum 22 children)
Date of Registration	26 th April 2023

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	Eager Einstein's Preschool Montessori is a registered sessional service that caters for children aged between 2 years and 6 months to 6 years of age and for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme ECCE. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9am and 12.30pm.
Premises	The service operates from one of the classrooms in Whitegate National School located in a rural village in east Cork. The service has a designated secure outdoor area which is located within the grounds of the national school. The playroom is spacious. There are two designated children's toilets and one designated adult toilet for the early years' service within the national school building.
Staffing	The service proposes to have three adults who will work directly with the children in the room. The staff will hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.
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 provider, person in charge 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service has designated persons in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

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

(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)

(a) 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

(b) 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 preschool/montessori room was not in operation when the fit for purpose inspection was carried out. It is proposed that two to three adults will always work directly with the children in the part time service (ECCE)

(8)

(b) Not applicable as this is not a proposed child-minder service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a proposed single-handed operated 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.*
- (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) There are low shelves provided in the playroom that are accessible to the children. The shelves are stocked with a large selection of activities, equipment and play materials that are all functioning and maintained in good condition. For outdoor play it is proposed that the children will have access to the outdoor play area that already exists that has a bark and grass surface.
- (b) There is soft seating provided in the playroom. There is a stackable bed with bed linen available for the child that wants to sleep while attending the service. The sleeping child will be accommodated on the sleep equipment that will be located within the playroom.

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	<p>(2)(a), (3)(a) The children have access to a designated outdoor play area located within the grounds of the national school. The outdoor play area will be adequately secured when the children are playing outdoors.</p> <p>(3)(b) Not applicable as the children have access to an outdoor play area on the grounds of the national school.</p> <p>(4) + (5) Not applicable as the children have access to an on-site outdoor play area.</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 requirement has been met.</p> <p>It is proposed that the parents will provide all the food and drink requirements for the children while attending the service. There will be potable drinking water available to the children. The children’s drinks will be freely available to the children while attending the service. A fridge is provided to store perishable foods provided by parents.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirements have been met.</p> <p>General Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main entrance door to the service was adequately secured to reduce the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premise or the leaving of an unsupervised child. • All toys and play equipment in the proposed playroom are safe and in good condition. • The openable windows in the playroom and toilet facilities are at a high level and inaccessible to children.
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- The cleaning equipment and materials will be stored in an area out of children's reach in a locked storage room.
- There was no evidence of loose and accessible cables in the room.
- One adult has a certified, up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificate. and two staff have paediatric first aid certificates. A staff member will be available to the children at all times to offer first aid if necessary.
- The first aid box in the room is stored in an area out of children's reach.
- The emergency fire exit door was unobstructed at time of inspection.
- Safe storage is provided for the children's belongings which includes bags and coats and wellies in a designated storage area located on the corridor beside the preschool/montessori room.

Infection Control:

- Cleaning template schedules are in place and demonstrated the service has daily specific cleaning records.
- There was hot water, liquid soap and disposable paper hand towels available at all sinks in both the adult and children's toilets and in the playroom. This ensured the children and staff could wash their hands as required.
- The playroom and toilet facilities were well ventilated through openable windows at adult height with the practice in the service to go outside to play daily.
- All rubbish was disposed of in pedal operated lidded bins.

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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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There was written evidence that one of the staff in the service held certified, up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificates.

(2) (a)(b) The first aid box was stored out of children's reach. The first aid box was adequately stocked and readily accessible by staff.

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) The requirement is met in relation to the provision of a form for recording monthly fire drills. The last fire drill took place on the 31st March 2023

(b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment and for the wired smoke alarm is available on file.

(4) The service has a designated assembly point in the event of a fire.

A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was on display.

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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:

There was a copy of the updated insurance cover. The expiry date on the current insurance certificate is the 24th March 2024.

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.
It is proposed from September 2023 that the Preschool/Montessori Room will offer an additional part time service that will cater for children aged 2 years 6 months to 6 years along with the sessional service.

(a) No mould or cracks were visible on inspection. The service was very clean and well maintained.

(b) The entrance door to the early years' service is adequately secured to prevent access by an unauthorised adult.

(c) There are a number of openable windows at adult height in the proposed playroom and in the adult and children's toilet facilities.
There are an adequate number of fluorescent lights fitted with covers in the proposed playroom and toilet facilities.
The playroom air temperature and toilet area air temperatures were recorded at 19°C during the inspection.

(d) Cleaning schedule templates are available, and all the play materials were in good condition.

(e) There are two designated toilets and two wash hand basins provided for the proposed maximum number of 20 children aged between 2 years and 6 months and

	<p>6 years that can attend at any one time on a part time basis. There is a designated toilet and wash hand basin available for use by the adults.</p> <p>The premise is serviced by a public sewage system and the water source is from a public supply.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) +(2) The Preschool/Montessori Room measured 48.24. square meters. Adequate floor space is available in the proposed playroom for the work, play and movement of 20 (ECCE) children attending the proposed part time service with a minimum of 2 adults directly attending to the children at all times. The ratio for a part time service is 1: adult to 8 children at any one time.</p> <p>(3) The floor space of 1.818 square meters applies per each preschool child attending for the morning session. Therefore, the space allows up to 22 preschool children attending the morning sessional service.</p> <p>(4)(5) not applicable</p>
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