

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2018DY508

Name of Service Discovery Queen B's Creche & Montessori

Address of Service: Unit 1 Discovery Building, Royal Canal Park, Dublin 15, D15 EW70

Email Address: bernie.hill10@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Bernadette Hill

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" 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: proposes to increase the number of children in the service through the provision of three additional care rooms.

Proposed Number of Children: 85

Recommended Change Following Inspection:
 Up to 79 children to attend the proposed pre-school service on a full day care basis.
 Up to 85 children to attend the proposed pre-school service on a sessional care basis.

Registered change: Change in number of children from 43 to 85(Max 79 full day)

Date of Inspection:	2	0	0	1	2	0	2	6
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Inspection undertaken by: T. Nelson and E. Griffin

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5
 The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Park
 Ballycoolin, Dublin 15 | D15 CF9K

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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 Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 85(Max 79 Full Day) Children
Date of Registration	17th February 2026

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>Discovery Queen B's Creche & Montessori is a full day care service located in a residential area of Dublin 15 and is currently registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 43 children aged 0 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday. The ECCE sessional service is delivered from 8.45am to 11.45am. The service is one of three services operated locally by the registered provider.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to increase the number of children to 85 children.</p>
Premises	<p>Discovery Queen B's Creche & Montessori is based on the ground floor of a residential complex in a purpose-built unit. There are currently three care rooms; Baby Toddler Room 1 (age 0 to 2 years old), Pre Montessori-Room 1 (age 2 to 3 years old) and Montessori Room 1 (age 2 to 6 years old) with sanitary accommodation located off each of these care rooms. The Baby Toddler Room has direct access to a sleep room. The proposed new care rooms will include Baby Toddler Room 2 (age 0 to 2 years old), Pre Montessori-Room 2 (age 2 to 3 years old) and Montessori Room 2 (age 2 to 6 years old). There are sanitary facilities located off each of the new rooms and a cot room adjacent to the Baby Toddler room 2. Further facilities include a reception area, kitchen and staff toilets, staff room, storage facilities, an indoor gym play area and sensory room. There is an enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the premises.</p>

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Staffing	<p>The registered provider proposes to employ up to 22 staff; including 18 who will work directly with the children, the person in charge, deputy person in charge, and two housekeeping staff.</p> <p>The registered provider will manage the oversight of the service.</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 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	<p>The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present 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 is met.

(1)

(a) The service has a designated person in charge, and a named staff member is available 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:

(1) The registered provider stated that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children attending the service. It is proposed that there will be up to 18 adults caring for the proposed 86 full time children.

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 or

Requirement met:

The requirement is partially met.

(1)

	<p>(a) The proposed care rooms will provide suitable facilities for the children in the 0 to 6 years age range to play indoors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an adequate supply of toys and resources available to support a range of play experiences. • Furniture in the room is suitable for the age and stage of development of the proposed children. • Toys and equipment are stored on low-level shelving, visible and accessible to the children. <p>(b) There are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a cosy area available in the care rooms where children can take a break from activities and rest. • There is an adequate supply of cots available for children under the age of 2 years. There are 11 cots available across the 2 cot rooms. • The cots available are standard cots with suitable wipeable mattresses, and an appropriate supply of bed linen is available. <p>(3)</p> <p>(a) There is an outdoor play area available to the rear of the premises which is fully enclosed. A range of outdoor toys to facilitate physical play experiences for the proposed age range is available.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(1)</p> <p>(a) There is not an adequate number of chairs available for the 14 proposed children in Pre-Montessori room 2. There were 11 chairs available.</p> <p>(b) There is not an adequate number of low beds available for the proposed 14 children over 2 years old who may require sleep in Pre-Montessori room 2. There were 11 low beds available.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>(a) Evidence was submitted to show there are now enough chairs for the number of children.</p>

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	(b) Evidence was submitted to show there are now enough low beds for the number of children.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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 is met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an on-site kitchen where the service will prepare and provide snacks. • Hot meals will be provided by parents, and these will be heated in the onsite kitchen. • There is suitable refrigeration in the onsite kitchen to accommodate the children’s meals from home. • The registered provider stated that children will receive four meals per day, with breakfast on arrival, a mid-morning snack, a hot meal and an afternoon tea. • The registered provider will ensure that suitable alternatives are available for those with additional or alternative dietary requirements. • There is a healthy food policy in place. • Children will have access to drinking water in the care rooms.
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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:

The requirement is partially met.

The following are examples of the measures taken to safeguard children:

- The main entrance door to the premises is monitored and managed by staff to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and restrict unauthorised access.
- The outdoor area is secured with locks up high out of reach of the children.
- Emergency exits are clearly indicated and are unobstructed.
- Shelving and storage units are stable and secure.
- The rooms were observed to be in a clean and hygienic condition, and there is cleaning checklists available.
- Appropriate waste disposal units are available throughout the premises.
- Logs are maintained where a sleeping child's colour, breathing and position are checked every ten minutes.

Requirement not met:

General Safety:

1. The temperature of the water in the Pre-Montessori room 2 exceeded the recommended temperature of 43°C. This poses a potential scald risk to the proposed children. The inspector recorded the following:

Location	Temperature	Required temperature
Sink in Pre-Monti 2 care room	57.4°C	Less than 43°C
Sink in sanitary area in Pre-Monti 2	59.1°C	

2. The two trampolines in the indoor play area are not suitable play equipment.
3. Storage presses off the hallway are accessible to children.

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	4. Overflow water is accessible to children from four drain pipes in the outdoor play area. This poses a potential safety risk should children ingest the water.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence was submitted to show the water temperature is reduced to less than 43°C. 2. The trampolines were removed. 3. Evidence was submitted to show that child safety locks have been fitted on the presses in the hallway. 4. Evidence was submitted to show that drain guards have been fitted on all the drains pipes in the outdoor area.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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 is met.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Documentary evidence is available that there will be a staff member trained to First aid Responder level available to the children during the operational hours of the service. (2) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes are available in easily identifiable locations throughout the premises. (b) The first aid box is easily accessible to adults.
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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 is met.

(1) A record of the following is available:

- (a) There is a template available to record fire drills that take place in the service.
- (b) A written record is available to demonstrate the firefighting equipment in the premises was maintained in July 2025 and the smoke alarms were maintained on 9 October 2025.

(4) There is a notice displayed in the care room of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire with a clear route indicated to the fire assembly point.

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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 is met.

The registered provider has evidence of insurance for a maximum of 86 children in a full-time day care service valid from 16 June 2025 to 27th March 2026.

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 is partially met.

(a) The premises appears to be of a sound and stable structure.

(b) The entrance door to the service is secured adequately to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons from gaining access. There is a magnetic lock system in place. Entry is managed and monitored by staff. The door release button is up high out of reach of children.

(c)

- Windows provide natural lighting to the care rooms. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights are recessed and fitted with protective covers.

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- The proposed care rooms have openable windows, and the sanitary accommodation is fitted with either an operating mechanical ventilation system or openable windows.
- (e) There are adequate sanitary facilities available for the proposed number of children and staff.
- One toilet and one sink is required for every 11 children who use a toilet.
 - One nappy change unit and one sink is required for every 11 children in nappies.

Number of toilets	Number of nappy change units	Number of sinks
6	4	8

- One toilet and one sink is required for every 8 adults. There are 3 staff toilets available.

Requirement not met:

- (c) The heating in the premises is provided by an air heating system. However, the temperature of the care rooms isn't maintained between the recommend 18 to 22°C. The inspector recorded the following temperatures:

Location	Temperature	Required temperature
Baby Toddler room 2	17.3°C	Between 18 to 22°C
Pre-Montessori room 2	23°C	
Montessori room 2	17.3°C	
Sensory room	16.8°C	
Cot room 2	15.7°C	Between 16 to 20°C (for children under 1 year old while children are sleeping) Between 18 to 22°C

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			(for children over 1 year old while children are sleeping)
	(d) The pull-up bar in the Baby Toddler room 2 is not secured to the wall.		
Response from Provider:	(c) Evidence was submitted to show that the temperature has been adjusted in all the rooms and will be maintain between 18°C to 22°C.		
	(d) Evidence was submitted that the pull up bar had been secured.		
Summary Comment:	The requirement is 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.*

(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:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1) A total of 203.7m² is available.</p> <p>There is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement for up to 79 children to attend the proposed pre-school service on a full day care basis.</p> <p>There is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement for up to 88 children to attend the proposed pre-school service on a sessional care basis.</p>
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(2) The amount of clear floor space available is demonstrated in the table below:

Room Name	Clear floor space m ² measured by EYI	Space required:	Number of children room can accommodate:
Existing Baby Toddler room 1	29.8 m ²	0-1 years: 2.5 m ² 1-2 years: 2.8 m ²	8 FDC (0-1 yr) 10 FDC (1-2 yrs)
Existing Pre-Montessori room 1	25 m ²	2-3 years: 2.35 m ²	10 FDC
Existing Montessori room 1	39.3 m ²	2-3 years: 2.35 m ² 3-6 years: 2.3m ² 2-6 years: 1.818 m ²	16 FDC 21 Sessional*
Proposed Baby Toddler room 2	39 m ²	0-1 years: 2.5 m ² 1-2 years: 2.8 m ²	11 FDC (0-1 yr) 13 FDC (1-2 yrs)
Proposed Pre-Montessori room 2	33.6 m ²	2-3 years: 2.35 m ²	14 FDC

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	Proposed Montessori room 2	37 m ²	2-3 years: 2.35 m ² 3-6 years: 2.3m ² 2-6 years: 1.818 m ²	16 FDC 20 Sessional*
	<p>*As part of the proposed registered capacity, the space requirements sessional care only apply for the duration of the operational hours of the sessional service.</p> <p>The registered provider is obliged to ensure that the space available for each child in each care room is at all times in accordance with the requirements of this regulation.</p>			