

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2018KE510

Name of Service Helping Hands Pre-School and Afterschool Care

Address of Service: Scoil Mhuire, Ballymore Eustace, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 PF86

Email Address: helpinghandschildcarebme@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Nicola Byrne & Caroline Gallagher

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: To increase the number of children from 22 to 44 with the addition of a second pre-school room in the existing primary school premises.

Proposed Number of Children: 44

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Approve change

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 22 to 44

Date of Inspection:	0	4	0	4	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: F. Maher

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas Co. Kildare, W91 X38W

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 44 Children
Date of Registration	15 th April 2024

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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).

Description of Service	Helping Hands Pre-School and Afterschool Care is a private sessional service and is currently registered to accommodate 22 pre-school children aged 2-6 years. The service opens Monday to Friday from 09:00am-12:00pm for 38 weeks of the year. A school age service is also provided. It is proposed to increase the number of children attending to 44 with the addition of a second pre-school room.
Premises	The service is located currently in one large classroom in the primary school in the village of Ballymore Eustace Co. Kildare. The addition of a second pre-school room is proposed in the existing school building. The pre-school places an emphasis on outdoor play and learning and a large secure well resourced outdoor area is provided at the front of the school building.
Staffing	A sufficient number of adults are currently employed in the service to accommodate the proposed increase to forty four children. All adults employed and working directly with children hold qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.
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</p>

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of one of the registered providers 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.

The service has a designated 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The registered providers have appointed a sufficient number of staff members to ensure the required adult: child ratios are maintained.

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.
- (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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The proposed new pre-school room has been constructively planned and resourced with play and learning equipment and materials to cater for the number of children aged from 2-6 years proposed to attend this room on a sessional basis. Low level child sized tables and chairs are provided in the pre-school room and the fixed shelving units have supplies of art and craft materials for mark making and painting activities, puzzles, books, jigsaws, and equipment for fine motor skill activities.

A suitably equipped and well-resourced outdoor play and learning environment is available to the front of the premises.

(b)

Child sized couches are available should a child require to take a break sit and/or rest and read a book during the session.

(4)

The play area provided for children in the outdoors is safe and secure enclosed by a high level metal fence and gate.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

A healthy eating policy is in place in the service.

Parents provide the morning snack for their child attending and this is monitored by staff to ensure healthy options are provided. Drinking water is available in the service and will be available at all times for the children.

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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 has been met.

The main entrance door to the primary school is secure and controlled by the school administrative staff. The entrance door to the proposed new pre-school room is secured on the inside and entry to the pre-school room will be controlled by the pre-school staff to prevent any child from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school room. The outdoor area is suitably secured. Storage was available for the safe storage of cleaning products, equipment and staff belongings.

All fire exits were unobstructed and easily recognisable.

There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in the pre-school room and sanitary area.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from a wall mounted dispenser, was available for hygienic hand drying.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

Current certification in relation to first aid response (FAR) was available for staff members currently working in the service.

(2)(a)

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

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 with up to date recordings for monthly fire drills completed.

(b)

The primary school has a maintenance contract in place for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system and servicing was dated June 2023 and 26 March 2024 respectively.

(4)

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

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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:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection.

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.

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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 proposed new pre-school room is maintained in a good state of repair.

(b) The main entrance door to the primary school is secure and controlled by the school administrative staff. The entrance door to the proposed new pre-school room is secured on the inside with a thumb turn lock and entry to the pre-school room will be controlled by the pre-school staff to prevent any pre-school child from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school room.

A high metal fence and entrance gate surrounds the perimeter of the outdoor play area.

(c) There are openable windows to naturally ventilate the proposed pre-school room and the adjacent sanitary accommodation.

Natural daylight was provided by a full wall of windows. Supplementary artificial fluorescent strip lighting is provided in the room. The accommodation is heated by gas fired central heating with low level wall mounted radiators that can be thermostatically controlled. A service contract is in place for the boiler heating system and is maintained by the primary school.

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

(e) Adequate sanitary facilities are provided in the service including nappy changing facilities. Four toilets and four wash hand basins are available in the service to

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	accommodate the proposed increase to 44 children. Adequate staff sanitary accommodation was available in the primary school.
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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.*
- (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.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1), (3)</p> <p>A total clear floor space of 48m² is available in the proposed new pre-school room.</p> <p>The space provided in the proposed room is sufficient to accommodate a further 22 pre-school children on a sessional basis.</p>
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