

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2018MO502

Name of Service: Little Bears Preschool

Address of Service: Murrisk National School, Murrisk, Co Mayo.

Email Address: littlebearscurrisk@outlook.com

Name of Registered Provider: Helen Vaughan

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:	Change in service type to full day care
Proposed Number of Children:	22 children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Maximum of 21 children attending full day care services dependant on age range of children. 22 children attending sessional services.
Registered change:	Change in service type from part time to full day care / part time / sessional for 22 Children (Max 21 Full Day Care) Change in hours of operation from 09:00 – 14:30 to 08:00 – 16:30 Change in number of staff from 3 to 4

Date of Inspection:	2	4	1	0	2	0	2	3
----------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Inspection undertaken by: M Farrell
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:
 Early Year’s Inspectorate, 2nd Floor,
 St. Mary’s HQ., Castlebar,
 Co Mayo.

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 22 Children (Max 21 FDC)
Date of Registration	17 th November 2023

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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	Little Bears Preschool is a privately owned and operated parttime service registered to operate from 9:00 -14:30 hours and to cater for children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service is registered to provide school aged services.
Premises	Little Bears Preschool is located in a prefabricated building on the grounds of a primary school in Murrisk, County Mayo. There is one playroom, a kitchen and sanitary facilities provided. Children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area to the side of the building.
Staffing	There are four staff employed in the service including the registered provider who works directly with the children.
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, who was present on the day of the inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

- (a) There is a designated person in charge in the service.
- (b) There is a named person to deputise in the service as needed.

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)—

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) It is proposed that 4 adults will be employed to care directly for the children and maintain the sessional child ratios of 1 adult for every 11 children and the full day care adult: child ratios of;

- 1:6 for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age and
- 1: 8 for children aged from 3 to 6 years of age.

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

Requirement met:

The requirements have been met.

(1)

	<p>(a) There is a range of toys and play equipment provided in the playroom at low levels in open accessible storage for the children to play with. The play equipment is varied and includes transport, construction, kitchen/home and small world toys. Tables and chairs of suitable size for children aged from two to six years of age are provided facilitating play with the tabletop activities including puzzles available. Age-appropriate books are provided with a range of art and craft equipment also available for the children in the playroom.</p> <p>Equipment provided for use by the children in the enclosed outdoor play area includes ride on toys, hula hoops, a waterwall, with buckets and spades to play with at a covered messy play table. A sheltered area has an easel, seating and a table for activities such as artwork outdoors.</p> <p>(b) There is a rest area in one section of the playroom with wipeable soft sleep mattresses/mats provided for children to rest on as needed.</p> <p>(3)</p> <p>(a) The children have access on a daily basis to an enclosed outdoor area on the grounds of the premises with tarmacadam and concrete path ground coverings. The gates to the outdoor play area have securing mechanisms in place to prevent children from leaving without authorisation. A shelter is provided in the space with seating, and planting boxes for children and adults to grow flowers and vegetables in. There is a storage shed to store play equipment including ride on toys and hula hoops for physical activity.</p> <p>(b)</p>
--	---

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 partially met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that healthy snacks for the children in line with the service’s healthy eating policy are to be provided from home for the morning snack. The service proposes to provide a healthy breakfast, midday snack and hot main meal for children attending full day care services with information of the contents to be provided to the children’s parents/guardians. The registered provider advised the inspector that filtered drinking water is to be always available to the children in the service.
Requirement not met:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no copies available of the service’s revised healthy eating policy or proposed meal plans to be provided by the service to inform parents of the meals to be offered throughout the day.
Response from Provider:	<p>The registered provider advised in writing that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a Food Hygiene & Healthy Eating policy and a 3-week menu plan in place in the setting. <p>Copies of the policy and 3-week menu plan were submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Summary Comment:	The requirement has now been met.
-------------------------	-----------------------------------

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:

General Safety

- The entrance doors have securing mechanisms in place to prevent children from leaving the service unnoticed and people from entering without authorisation. There is a half gate in place in the playroom to restrict access to the kitchen area.
- Cleaning products are stored in the kitchen and in a room that is inaccessible to children.
- The emergency exit routes are free from obstruction.
- The toys and play equipment are age-appropriate, clean and in good condition.
- There is safe storage for medication if required in the kitchen that is inaccessible to children.
- Blind cords are secured with securing devices in the playroom.

Infection control:

- Cleaning schedules and checklists are in place for appropriate areas in the service.
- A supply of filtered drinking water is provided in the service.
- Foot pedal operated bins are available for the disposal of waste.
- A refrigerator is provided in the service to store perishable food items.
- The outdoor waste storage bins are in a fenced off area that is inaccessible to children in the service.
- The service has a pest control company employed to prevent/manage rodent activity.

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 partially met.
(2)

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	(a) There are two first aid boxes stored in easily accessible positions in the service containing the required first aid equipment.
Requirement not met:	(1) There was no evidence available of current certification of training in first aid for children available for any adult in the service.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider advised in writing that: (1) Three staff have completed (FAR training) training in first aid for children and are awaiting certification. The registered provider submitted evidence of the completion of FAR training for staff and a copy of FAR certification for a fourth staff member.
Summary Comment:	The requirement has now been met.

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) Copies of the templates for the recording of all monthly fire drills to take place on the premises are available in the service. (b) A record is available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The firefighting equipment was last serviced on the 11 September 2023 and the fire detection and alarm system was last maintained on the 26 April 2023. (4) Detailed notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed in the playroom.
-------------------------	---

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 obtained insurance cover for full day care services for a maximum of 22 children at any one time with an expiry date of the 27 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.

- (a) No obvious defects were observed in the prefabricated building structure.
- (b) The main entrance door to the premises has a securing mechanism in place and is also used by the adjacent primary school to access a room in the building. The internal entrance door to the playroom has a high positioned securing device allowing staff to control access to the playroom and prevent children from leaving the area unnoticed.

(c) Lighting:

The service is adequately lit with natural light provided from windows in addition to artificial lighting. The light fittings in the playroom and in the sanitary areas have protective covers.

Heating:

The service is heated by electric storage heaters. The playroom air temperature and sanitary area temperatures were found to be within the required range of 18-22°C for these areas.

Ventilation:

There are openable windows with trickle vents in the playroom to allow ventilation of the room. The children’s sanitary unit has openable windows and mechanical ventilation to ventilate the space.

(d)

There are cleaning schedules and cleaning recording templates in place for the service. The playroom and sanitary areas are clean, and the play equipment is maintained in satisfactory condition.

(e)

Sanitary facilities were provided in the service as follows:

Child sanitary accommodation:

A sanitary unit with two toilets and two wash hand basins is provided off the playroom.

Adult sanitary accommodation:

Adult sanitary accommodation with one toilet and handwashing facilities is provided off the main entrance lobby.

Warm water, liquid soap, paper towels and foot pedal bins are provided in the sanitary units for handwashing and drying purposes.

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.
- (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).

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) There is adequate clear floor space available to the children measuring a total of 48.8 square metres that can accommodate 22 children attending sessional services. This floor space can accommodate a maximum of 21 children attending full day services.
- (2) The floor space of 48.8 square metres can accommodate a maximum of 21 children attending parttime/ full day services dependant on their age ranges as follows;

Minimum Space requirements:	
Age range	Clear floor space
2-3 years	2.35 square metres
3-6 years	2.3 square metres

- (4) The minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear space is available for 22 children to attend when sessional and full day care services are contemporaneously provided in the room.