

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2019MH002

Name of Service: Cookies Early Learning Centre Ltd

Address of Service: Unit 8/9, Ivy Hall, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath

Email Address: Inquiry.cookieselc@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Megan Cooke

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

Proposed change:	To increase the numbers of children attending from 33 to 48. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bluebells room currently accommodates 11 children on a sessional basis but proposes to accommodate 22 on a sessional basis and 16 children on a full day care basis. The Sunflowers room accommodates 22 children on a sessional basis but proposes to accommodate 26 in the morning session (room is used for school age in afternoon)
Proposed Number of Children:	48
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	The service can accommodate 48 children.
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 33 to 48

Date of Inspection:	0	2	0	8	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: D. Murray

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan Co. Meath

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 48 Children
Date of Registration	18 th August 2023

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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	Cookies Early Learning Centre is a private childcare facility established in 2019. This service provides full day care, part-time and sessional care to pre-school children from 2 to 6 years. A school aged service is also provided. The service operates from 07:30am-6:30pm and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE). The service is situated on the ground floor of an apartment block and consists of 2 care rooms, sanitary facilities, office and a kitchen. The service proposes to increase the number of children attending the service from 33 to 48.
Premises	<p>The rooms in the service are as follows:</p> <p>The Bluebells room provides care and education to children from 2 years 8 months to 4 years and at present accommodates 11 children on a sessional, full day care basis. The registered provider is proposing to increase the numbers in this room to 22 children attending the ECCE sessional service with 16 children staying on to avail of the full day care service.</p> <p>The Sunflowers room provides care and education to children from 3 years 6 months to 5 years and at present accommodates 22 children on an ECCE sessional basis. The registered provider is proposing to increase the numbers attending this session to 26 children. This room is used for school aged in the afternoon.</p> <p>Two outdoor spaces are also available on the premises.</p>
Staffing	The registered provider employs 9 childcare staff, a cook and 2 staff members for the school aged 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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.

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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 has been met.

The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able 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 requirements have been met.

(1) The registered provider has ensured that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

The Bluebells room will have 3 staff members caring for 22 children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months to 4 years attending the sessional ECCE service in the morning with 3 staff members with 16 children availing of the full day care service.

The Sunflowers room will have 3 staff members caring for 26 children ranging in age from 3 years 6 months to 5 years attending the sessional ECCE 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.

(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:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

- Play materials and play equipment in both care rooms were visible and easily accessible to the children on open shelving at their height which supported children to have choices in selecting materials and equipment to play with. Tables and chairs in each room were appropriate to the age and stage of development of pre-school children attending the specific care rooms. The care rooms were well resourced and had areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts, Montessori equipment and a range of suitable toys.
- Two outdoor areas are available on the premises which the children have access to. The outdoor space for the Sunflowers room had an artificial grass surface. Equipment included a playhouse with a slide, sand table, planting boxes, mud kitchen, wooden bench and a hut, goal posts and ride on scooters and tricycles. The outdoor space for the Bluebells room had paving slabs with steps up to a raised area consisting of grass. Equipment included a small wooden school bus, ride on car, push along scooters, wooden activity frame with a slide, climbing ramp and rope, sand table, 2 mud kitchen, goal posts, sand pit, water tray, fairy garden and a large free standing plastic donkey.

(b) The requirement has been met.

Cosy areas consisting of mats and soft furnishings were available in both care rooms for children to take a break from activities if needed. In the Bluebells room stackable beds will be placed in a quiet area of the room for the children who required sleep.

(3)(a) There were 2 suitable, safe and secure outdoor spaces on the premises. The spaces are enclosed with railings and walls and had secure gates. The surface areas consisted of artificial grass, cement, paving stones and real grass.

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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 service has a 3-week menu plan for the children attending the full day care service with a variety of dishes ranging from meat, fish and poultry cooked on site. An alternative meal is also available for vegetarians and fussy eaters. The children will have a choice of cereal for breakfast. Morning snack will be served at 12:30pm. The main meal of the day will be served at 15:30pm with additional snacks available for the children staying until 6pm if required. All children will bring their own lunch. Water and milk will be the drinks of choice.

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 following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- All play materials were placed on stable based shelving units. Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children present in the service.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- An indoor and outdoor risk assessment will be conducted on a daily basis.
- A Fridge will be available for the storage of perishable items in the children's lunch boxes.
- A thermometer is available in the Bluebells room to ensure that the temperature of the room is maintained between 16 to 20^oC while children are sleeping.
- A Sleep log is available to record 10 minutes sleep checks on children who may avail of sleep.

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) An adequate number of staff have up to date First Aid Responders course and will be available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid box is suitably equipped and is safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the care rooms and are available at all times.

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:

(1)(a) A template is available to record fire drills that take place in the service.

(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The fighting equipment was last serviced on 05/01/2023. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 25/05/2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the premises.

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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.

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 inspector observed the walls, flooring, doors, and windows were suitably maintained, and the inspector did not identify any safety issues or concerns.

(b) The main door to the service was secured with a buzzer system and the outdoor spaces are enclosed with secure gates. These security measures ensure that a child does not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor spaces.

(c) Windows provided natural lighting to the care room. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required.

Heating is provided through gas panels on the ceilings in each care room. The temperature of both rooms was between 18°C to 20°C on the day of inspection. Natural ventilation is provided by opened doors and windows. An air conditioning system is also in place in the Sunflower room with mechanical ventilation in the enclosed sanitary facilities.

(d) The pre-school rooms were in a clean condition on the day of inspection. Cleaning schedules were available to ensure regular cleaning of the service.

(e) The children's sanitary facilities consisted of the following:
In the Bluebells room there was 1 toilet closet and 1 sink. An adult sink was available in the storage area of the room.

	<p>There are 4 toilet closets with 5 sinks situated off the hallway outside the Sunflowers room. A nappy changing unit mounted to the wall was available in the wheelchair accessible toilet. One staff sanitary facility was available on the premises.</p> <p>Warm water not exceeding 43°C, liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided in all sanitary facilities. Bins were provided for the disposal of paper hand towels.</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.
- (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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space was available in the premises for the work, play and movement of the 48 children proposed.</p> <p>(4) (a)&(b) The Bluebells room. Free floor space available was 56.63m². This provides sufficient space for the proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 children between the ages of 2 years 8 months to 4 years attending the sessional ECCE service. • 16 children availing of the full day care service. <p>The Sunflowers room. Free floor space available was 63.85 m². This provides sufficient space for the proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 children between the ages of 3 years 6 months to 5 years attending the sessional ECCE service.
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