

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2019WW002

Name of Service Nexus ASD Pre-School

Address of Service: Community Building, Cois Sleibhe, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Email Address: bray@nexusedu.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Kerrylee Hempenstall

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

Proposed change: Change in number of children attending the service to 20.
Change in age profile of children
Change to Part Time & Sessional Service

Proposed Number of Children: 20

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Approve all changes

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 12 to 20
Change in age profile of children from 3-6 to 2yrs 8 months – 6 years
Change in Service Type from Part Time to Part Time/Sessional

Date of Inspection:	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: H. Bourke

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: First Floor Trinity Building
IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time / Sessional Service for 20 Children
Date of Registration	13 th December 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	Nexus ASD Pre-school is a privately owned service that first operated in June 2019. It is currently registered to provide care and education to children between 3 years of age and 6 years of age. The pre-school specifically caters for young children who have a confirmed diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder, and it is funded by Home Tuition Grants and from the Department of Education. The service operates on a part-time basis Monday to Friday from 09.15am to 01.15pm for 41 weeks of the year.
Premises	The service is located in a single storey building in a Respond housing estate and the building is owned by a board of management. No members of the board work directly with the children attending the pre-school. The service is located at the southern part of Bray Co. Wicklow. The building consists of two classrooms and two separate sanitary areas. Only one classroom is in use due to the current number of children attending the service. There is a separate kitchen, staff office and a large sensory room that the children attending the pre-school use daily. The registered provider was not present on the day of inspection and does not work directly with the children.
Staffing	There are five members of staff employed in the pre-school and this includes the manager who is the designated person in charge.
Methodology	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.

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and the manager 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 a designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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 service caters for six children on a part-time basis with an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times. There are five staff members currently employed in the service.

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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 service comprises of a single storey building in a community property. The proposed Sessional room was bright and spacious and well laid out to cater for the age range of children who will be attending the service.

(b)

There was a cosy area in the proposed Sessional room comprising of large cushions and mats for the children to use should they require a rest during their day.

(3)(a)

An outdoor play area has been provided on the premises and it is suitable, safe and secure. The outdoor space consists of mixed surfaces areas to the rear of the Pre-school. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area. There was an assortment of suitable toys available for all proposed age groups attending

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.

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	<p>Parents will provide all snacks for their child attending on a sessional basis.</p> <p>A rolling snack time is being introduced for the children who currently attend the service and will be available to the children in the proposed Sessional room.</p> <p>All snacks will be in line with the health eating policy of the service. Refrigerated storage facilities are available for perishable snacks.</p> <p>Portable water is available for children. If a child requires additional food, this will be provided by the staff in the service.</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 requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The manager stated the main door is securely closed at all times, ensuring children cannot leave the service unsupervised and unauthorised access to the service cannot occur. • The emergency exit doors were unobstructed. • Storage is available for the children that will be attending the proposed Sessional room. • Cleaning materials and equipment were locked in a cupboard in the service. • A cleaning schedule for toys and equipment was available. • The sanitary accommodation was well stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towels. • The water temperature in the sanitary areas was recorded at 32°C. • Foot pedal bins were available in both sanitary areas, for the safe disposal of used paper towels. • The proposed Sessional room and sanitary accommodation were ventilated by openable windows.
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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)

A full-time staff member has a current FAR certification in first aid for children.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was available between the care rooms. It was clearly identifiable and readily accessible.

(b)

The first aid box will be available to the children attending the proposed Sessional 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 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 has been met.

(1)(a)

The manager has indicated that fire drills will continue to be carried out in the service. The last recorded fire drill was October 2023.

(b)

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	<p>There was a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment and for the servicing of the fire detection and alarm system dated the 29th of September 2023.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>Notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in both the Pre-school room and the proposed Sessional room. The fire assembly point was identified.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>An insurance quotation was submitted to the registration office.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The current insurance certificate was available for review with an expiry date of 27th of March 2024 and covers 20 children.</p>
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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.
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(a)

Visually, the proposed Sessional room was in a state of good repair.

(b)

The proposed Sessional room was located within a single storey building and was accessible from the hallway at the front of the premises. The premises is situated at the end of a housing estate and is secured by a high wall and railings to the front of the premises and surrounded by a high concrete wall to the rear. There is a locked gate at either side of the outdoor play area to prevent a child leaving the area unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.

(c)

There were openable windows in the proposed Sessional room, providing natural daylight and ventilation. Overhead lights with protective coverings provided adequate additional artificial lighting in the room. The Sessional room was heated via storage heaters to keep the room temperatures at a comfortable level.

(d)

Daily cleaning schedules were in place for both the existing Pre-school room and the proposed Sessional room following the cleaning guidelines as per the pre-school's current infection control policy.

(e)

Within the building, there were two sanitary areas. The first area had three child sized toilets and two sinks. The second sanitary area had two toilets and two sinks. Nappy changing facilities were also available in the second sanitary area. There was a total of five toilets and four wash hand basins provided for children's use. A separate toilet and wash hand basin was available for the staff members.

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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the sessional service.</p> <p>(2) The clear floor space in the proposed Sessional room measured 31.81 square metres. There is sufficient space in the service to cater for the 14 proposed pre-school children on a sessional basis in the proposed age range.</p> <p>(4)(a)(b) There is adequate floor space to accommodate 14 children who will be attending during the operation of a concurrent sessional service.</p>
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