

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Tusla I.D.:</b>	TU2020SO001
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<b>Name of Service</b>	Mini Einsteins Montessori and After School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Preschool, Cregg House, Cregg, Rosses Point, Sligo
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<b>Email Address:</b>	joannemooney235@gmail.com
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Joanne Mooney
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<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	✓	<b>Part-Time</b>	✓	<b>Sessional</b>	✓
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Addition of a room to accommodate 11 children on a sessional basis. Increase in numbers of children from 44 to 55
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<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	55 preschool children
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<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	Proposed change recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The additional preschool room can accommodate 11 preschool children, bringing the total number of preschool children in the service to 55.</li> </ul>
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<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in Number of Children from 44 to 55 preschool children
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	7	0	6	2	0	2	4
<b>Date of Inspection (Day 2)</b>	0	8	0	8	2	0	2	4

<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Lorriane Costello
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo,  F91 XC84
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### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care, Part time and Sessional service for 55 children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2024

### 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Mini Einsteins is located within Cregg House near Rosses Point in Co Sligo. It currently caters for a maximum of 44 preschool children and operates on a full day care basis from 8am to 6pm daily. It is proposed to add a sessional service and to bring the numbers of children up to 55.
<b>Premises</b>	The preschool service operates in a designated section of Cregg House. It consists of two preschool rooms and proposes the addition of a sessional room.
<b>Staffing</b>	There are five staff employed within the service. The staff employed to work with children hold the required Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at Level 5 and Level 6 in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent
<b>Methodology</b>	<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</p>

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	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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff who were 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:**

This requirement has been met.

(1) (a)

There is a person in charge and a named person 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:**

(1)

The registered provider is aware of the requirements to ensure there is always an adequate number of adults working with the preschool children.

It is proposed that one adult will be working with 11 preschool children in the new care room.

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.*

(2) A registered provider—  
 (b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met

(1) (a)  
 The proposed preschool room is bright and welcoming and is presented in an easily accessible manner for the age of the children proposed to attend the pre-school service. The proposed care room is resourced with a range of suitable and adequate play materials and equipment. Low level furniture and shelving units for the storage of resources is available, with additional high shelving for supplementary materials. Designated interest areas are available to the children in the care room, some of which include a home corner, creative station, a book area, construction area, sensory areas, jigsaws, floor play toys and shelving units displaying a large variety of Montessori based equipment.

(b)  
 A corner with bean bags and soft furnishings provides an area for the children to relax or opt out of an activity. Stackable beds are also available for the preschool children to relax if required.

(2) (b)  
 A large outdoor play area with artificial grass ground covering was enclosed by wooden panel fencing, with locking mechanisms on the external side of the gates, providing a secure outdoor play area for the children. The large play area had two smaller areas

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	sectioned off to include a wooden mud kitchen area with play equipment in one section and a ground level sand pit with suitable toys that is covered when the service is closed in the second section. Located within the large outdoor area is a largen wooden boat structure, a swing unit with two swings and a slide, wooden benches for the adults and children’s use, a large hopscotch, secured goal posts and planted trees in tyres. There is additional play resources and equipment stored in a designated storage shed located next to the preschool.
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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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	It is proposed that the children attending the preschool sessional service will bring their own lunch from home in line with the service healthy eating policy. A fridge is provided in the room to ensure all perishable items are stored safely.
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	This requirement is partially met. The service health eating policy needs to be made available to the inspectorate.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	Healthy Eating Policy and Procedure submitted.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirements for this regulation have been met.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

- The main entrance door to the premises was secured to prevent entry to the service by an unauthorised person, or a child existing the premises unsupervised. The service has an enclosed outdoor play area which is secured with wooden fencing, with gates to the outdoor play areas fitted with locking mechanisms.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.
- Foot pedal operated bins were observed throughout the preschool service.
- The emergency fire exits remained free from obstruction.
- The blind cords remained secured and observed out of the reach of children
- The toys and play resources available to the children were observed to be in good repair and presented in a clean and hygienic manner.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

The registered provider has four adults employed in the service trained in first aid responder with a renewal date of the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2025.

(2) (a) (b)

The registered provider has a fully stocked first aid box available to the children which is located in a position accessible for use as required.

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) (a) (b)

The registered provider has a log in place to ensure all fire evacuation procedures are completed and recorded monthly.

A list of all fire fighting equipment is available with the most recent maintenance date of 29<sup>th</sup> of February 2024.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures are clearly displayed in the care room and hallway.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

The registered provider has submitted evidence of insurance to the registration office on application. Approval of change in circumstance is subject to appropriate insurance being in place.

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

(a)

On a visual inspection the premises appears to be of a sound and stable structure with no defects reported by the registered provider.

(b)

The premises is accessed through a bell entry system to ensure no unauthorised visitors to the service. The outdoor areas perimeter has a high wooden fence with a lockable gate to ensure no unsupervised exit from the service.

(c)

The proposed care room consists of six openable windows which provide natural light and ventilation to the room. Lighting is supplemented by 3 fluorescent lights. The heating system is provided centrally by oil and room temperatures on the day were recorded at 18.5°C.

(d)

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	<p>The premises was visually clean with cleaning schedules available. All materials and equipment appeared well maintained and in working order.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>The registered provider had installed an additional two toilets to provide sufficient sanitary accommodation for the proposed children. The premises now contains a total of 5 toilets available to preschool children and one toilet designated for adult use. A total of six wash hand basins are available for the children’s use.</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,*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>The registered provider has ensured adequate clear floor space is available for the preschool child to work rest and play.</p> <p>(4) (a)</p> <p>The proposed preschool room measures a total of 32.301m<sup>2</sup> which is adequate to accommodate the proposed 11 preschool children in a sessional service.</p> <p>The addition of this preschool room will facilitate a total of 55 preschool children in a sessional service on the premises.</p>
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