

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2021KE001

Name of Service Churchtown Stepping Stones Pre-school & After School

Address of Service: Churchtown, Athy Co. Kildare R14H248

Email Address: churchtownsteppingstones@yahoo.com

Name of Registered Provider: Lorraine Morrin and Linda Byrne

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: The service proposes to increase the number of children attending from 10 to 18.

Proposed Number of Children: 18

Recommended Change Following Inspection: The service has capacity to increase the number of children attending to 18.

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 10 to 18.

Date of Inspection: 3 1 0 8 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: F. Maher

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre
Ballymore Eustace Road Naas Co. Kildare, W91X38W.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status: Registered Sessional Service for 18 Children
Date of Registration 6th September 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	<p>This sessional service is privately owned and is currently registered to provide care and education to 10 children aged between 2-6 years of age. The registered providers are proposing to increase the number of children attending to 18. The service opens from Monday to Friday between 09.00am-12.00pm for 38 weeks of the pre-school year.</p> <p>The service is also registered to provide school aged care.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from a standalone portacabin on the site of the community hall and community playground in the townland of Churchtown outside Athy, Co. Kildare. One pre-school room with sanitary accommodation is provided and a secure play area is located to the front of the service.</p>
Staffing	<p>Both registered providers are employed and work directly with the children and hold qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education which is recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.</p>
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>

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Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers and children who were 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. (1) (a) There is a designated a person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
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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 ensured that there is, at all times, an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school 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.
(2) A registered provider-
(a) Of a full daycare service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time 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.

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Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The current pre-school room, to accommodate the proposed additional pre-school children, was equipped with child sized tables and chairs and had a variety of age-appropriate toys and learning equipment available at an accessible height to facilitate a child-led learning environment. The room had defined areas of interest including home corner, construction, library and mark making areas. A variety of play and learning materials, including small world, sensorial and manipulative toys and equipment were also available for play and learning outcomes for the children attending.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>A suitable rest area with child sized furniture was in place to enable a child to sit comfortably and read or take a break from activities during the morning if required.</p> <p>(2)(a)</p> <p>The outside play area was safe, suitable and secure, enclosed by boundary metal fencing and entrance gates that can be secured from the inside. Play equipment included a wooden playhouse, digging area, planting box and a variety of push/pull and ride on equipment.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The service has a healthy eating policy in place and parents are asked to provide a nutritious morning snack for their child daily.</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:

The requirement has been met.

The main entrance door to the pre-school room is secure and controlled by 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.

Storage was available for the safe storage of cleaning products in a secure cupboard beneath the sink unit in the pre-school room.

The 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 accommodation.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted dispensers, were available for hygienic hand washing and drying in the sanitary areas.

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)(b)
A suitably equipped first aid box is available and accessible to children at all times; this was located in a conspicuous position in the pre-school room

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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>Documentation was available for recording monthly fire drills.</p> <p>(b) The maintenance records for the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and the smoke/fire alarm detection system were submitted to the inspectorate on 4 September 2023 and dated 31 August 2023 and 4 September 2023 respectively.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was clearly displayed on the premises.</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>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 registered provider had evidence of insurance cover for 22 children. The insurance cover was valid until 27 March 2024.</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.

(a)

Visually, the premises is maintained in a good state of repair.

(b)

The main entrance door to the pre-school room service is secure and controlled by 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 level boundary metal fence and two gates that can be secured from the inside, surrounds the perimeter of the outdoor play area to the front of the service.

(c)

There are openable windows to naturally ventilate the pre-school room and sanitary accommodation.

Natural daylight was provided by windows on both sides of the room and supplementary artificial fluorescent strip lighting with protective coverings was also provided. Covered lighting fixtures are in place in the adjacent sanitary accommodation.

The service is heated by electricity and there were wall mounted electric heaters that can be thermostatically controlled.

(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.

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Two toilets with dedicated wash hand basins are available in the service to accommodate the 18 children proposed to attend the service.

A staff toilet has been recently fitted in the adjacent community hall with direct access from the playground at the front of the service.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1),(3)

Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement for 18 pre-school children proposed to attend the service aged 2-6 years old as demonstrated below,

		Pre-school Room
Clear Floor Space		35.2m ²