

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2021WD001

**Name of Service** Discovery Bay Preschool

**Address of Service:** Fishermans Hall, Dock Road, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford.

**Email Address:** charlenemcgeownlestrange@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Charlene L'Estrange

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

**Proposed change:** Increasing the number of children provided for in the service from 22 to 30.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 30

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated in the sessional service from 22 to 30.

**Registered change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 22 to 30.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	3	0	4	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection undertaken by:** Norma Thornton

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate,  
Tusla Child and Family Agency,  
Athy road,  
Carlow.

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024

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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Discovery Bay Preschool is a sessional early childhood care and education service (ECCE) which operates from a designated classroom and community hall, known as Fisherman’s Hall in the fishing village of Dunmore East in county Waterford.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to increase the number of preschool children that can be accommodated in the service from 22 to 30. The service operates from 09:30 to 13:00 hours, Monday to Friday.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service is comprised of a designated classroom, a spacious community hall, outdoor area onsite and has access for walks in the community garden which is at the front of the building overlooking the harbour and sea.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>It is proposed that there will be four staff members employed in the service including the designated person in charge. All staff members proposed to work directly with the children hold at least a minimum Level five qualification in early childhood care and education on the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) framework.</p>
<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.</p> <p>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</p>

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	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, staff and children 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:

The requirement has been met.

The registered provider proposes to have a designated person in charge daily. A named person is proposed 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a childminding service or a sessional pre-school service (operated single-handedly) shall ensure that there are at least two adults on the premises at all times.*

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service, is at all times, within close distance to the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider proposes that there will be at least four qualified staff members working directly with the proposed 30 children, aged two to six years. The

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	<p>registered provider will be available to provide extra support and relief for staff breaks or leave as required.</p> <p>(8)(a) The registered provider proposes that there will be always at least two staff members on the premises, while the service is in operation.</p> <p>(c) Not applicable as the service is not a single-handedly operated sessional service.</p>
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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—*
- (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:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a) In both the classroom and hall, the inspector observed well-resourced play materials and resources, enhancing areas of interest such as kitchen/home areas, child height sensory play trays, dress up areas, child sized tables and chairs, dolls houses, a play shop area, Montessori equipment, and low level shelving providing children with access to small world figurines, including sea life figurines, animals, dinosaurs and vehicles.

(b) Rest areas were provided in both the classroom and main hall in the form of child sized armchairs, large soft cushions, and large bean bags for the older children.

(2)(b) An outdoor play area was provided onsite at the side of the building which was secured by a stone wall, wire fencing and secured gates. The area had a gravel and

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cement surface and a smaller grass area for the children to enjoy playing with an outdoor kitchen, sand play and water play.

### 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:

There was an appropriate healthy eating policy in place in the service, which the registered provider communicates to parents on registration of their child in the service.

A refrigerator was provided for the safe storage of perishable food items belonging to children attending the service.

Drink stations were available in each classroom, where children were able to access their drinks independently from, or children had a choice to keep their bottles in the fridge or in their individual bags, stored on in the entrance hallway.

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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 is met.

#### **General Safety.**

On the day of inspection, the inspector observed that access to the service was gained through a main door at the front of the building.

A community library exists to the right-hand side of this building which had a separate entrance not attached to the service.

A push bar on the inside of the entrance door prevented unauthorised persons from entering the service; high-level door locks provided on all doors prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.

All emergency doors in the service were clearly lit and unobstructed. The premises and outdoor play area boundaries were secured by a stone wall, locked gates and a by a plastic wire fence, to prevent children from exiting the area unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons from entering the premises.

#### **Infection Control.**

Liquid hand soap and paper hand towels were observed in all three of the children’s toilets and in the designated staff toilet. The classroom had two children’s toilets and two handwash basin units which were supplied with liquid hand soap and paper hand towels.

The bathroom facilities just off the main hall contained a designated staff toilet and a designated children’s/ disability toilet which were also supplied with liquid hand soap and paper hand towels.

The registered provider demonstrated that there were daily cleaning schedules of the service facilities and equipment, for which there was a documented record of completion.

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	<p>Cleaning schedules were available for the two-bathroom areas, and both indoor environments. Outdoor risk assessments were undertaken daily and records of same maintained.</p> <p>A designated secured storage area was provided for all cleaning materials and solutions which could not be accessed by the children.</p>
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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 is met.

(1) Two staff members employed in the service held current first aid responder (FAR) accreditations, both due to expire in 2025. The registered provider proposes that there will be always at least one FAR trained staff member onsite, while the service is in operation and that this will be reflected on the staff roster.

(2)(a)(b) A first aid bag was available in the service and easily observed on a high shelf in the classroom. The first aid bag is available for all children attending the service.

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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:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a) The registered provider demonstrated that there was a record of monthly fire drills that took place in the service. The inspector observed that the last recorded fire drill was recorded as having taken place on the 22 March 2024.

(b) On review of records maintained by the registered provider the inspector observed that a maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment was recorded as having taken place in March 2024 and that the fire alarm system was recorded as having been serviced on the 24 January 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was clearly displayed in the classroom and mani hall and a clearly identifiable assembly area was located in the adjacent community garden on site.

### 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 office as part of this change in circumstances application. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the proposed change. The proposed change approval is contingent on the registered provider's compliance with Regulation 28.

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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:

- (a) The community hall appeared to be of sound and stable structure. The registered provider stated that there were no structural issues with the premises.
- (b) The inspector observed on the day of inspection that measures were in place to prevent unauthorised persons from entering the premises and to prevent children from leaving the premises unsupervised. There were separate designated entry and exit doors in the community hall for the childcare service. The service boundaries were safely secured with a stone wall, secured gates and a wire fence.
- (c) There were openable high windows in both the classroom and main hall, ensuring that the service was adequately lit by natural light and could be ventilated naturally. Lighting could be supplemented by the ceiling mounted lighting fittings which were secured with shatter proof encasements.
- Both bathroom facilities were ventilated with mechanical ventilation systems. Heating in the service was provided by gas fuelled radiators which were protected by timber radiator guards safely secured to the walls. The temperature of the radiators did not exceed 50°C.
- (d) The service appeared clean and tidy, with records of cleaning schedules maintained daily. Furniture and surfaces were observed to be clean and in a good condition.
- (e) There were an appropriate number of children’s toilet units available in the service. There were two individual toilet units and two handwash basins adjacent to

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	<p>the classroom and a further child's/disability toilet unit and handwash basin and a separate designated staff toilet available, adjacent to the main hall. This ensured that there was one toilet and one wash basin available for every 11 toilet trained early years children as required.</p> <p>A nappy changing unit is also provided in the spacious children's/disability toilet should it be required.</p> <p>Running water from the hand wash basins was observed not to exceed 43°C.</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.*

*(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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1) The inspector with the registered provider observed the following space measurements on measuring both classrooms, on the day of inspection.</p> <p>The playroom which will be known as the Senior Montessori room measured at 25 square metres.</p> <p>The main hall which will be known as the Junior Montessori room measured at 88 square metres.</p> <p>(3) The registered provider ensured that the service has a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space available for each of the proposed 30 children that she proposes to accommodate in the service.</p>
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