

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



Tusla I.D: TU2022FL009

Name of Service: Balcunnin Learn'Play Preschool

Address of Service: Balcunnin
Skerries
Co Dublin
K34 ND35

Email Address: barbaraclinton13@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Barbara Thornton

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

Proposed service type: Sessional
Proposed Number of Children: 18
Registered service: Registered Sessional Service for 18 Children

Date of Inspection:	3	1	0	8	2	0	2	2
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Inspection Undertaken by: AM Coyle
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 180-189 Lakeshore Drive
Airside Business Park
Swords
Co Dublin
K67 Y5C6

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Sessional Service for 18 Children
Date of Registration: 1st November 2022

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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	The proposed new service is a privately owned sessional preschool service which will cater for children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years. The service proposes to offer sessional preschool care and education from 09:15am until 12:15pm Monday to Friday. The service proposes to cater for 18 children at any one time.
Premises	The service is located in 2 adjoining rooms which will operate as one care room in the registered provider's home on the outskirts of Skerries Co Dublin. The service has its own separate entrance door. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the side of the service.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider proposes to operate the service single-handedly initially which adequately meets the staffing requirement based on the number of children currently seeking enrolment. A staff member would be employed if the number of children were to exceed 11. The proposed registered provider has plans in place to ensure that an emergency contact person would be available to attend the service, if necessary, at all times while the service is operated single-handedly.
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 four 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 presented to the Registration Team for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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>
Acknowledgement	The Inspector wishes 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:

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

The proposed registered provider proposes to be the person in charge of the service on a daily basis, initially operating single-handedly with a maximum of 11 children in attendance. A named emergency contact person would be available to deputise if required in the event of an emergency.

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)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school 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 of 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 proposed registered provider would be working directly with a maximum of 11 pre-school children attending the service on a sessional basis each morning.

(8)(c) The proposed registered provider would ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the sessional service would be available to assist at all times, in the event of an emergency.

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 day care 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.*

Requirement met:

The requirements have been met.

(1)(a) The care room has low shelving units available for the storage of toys and equipment for the children. Equipment available in the care room includes a wide range of Montessori resources, a home area with a kitchen and materials for the children to extend their play with range of tabletop and small world toys, transport toys, construction blocks and arts and crafts materials. A wide range of books are available to support the children’s language development.

(b) The requirements have been met. A suitably sized couch is available to the children in the care room to enable the children to take a rest as they require throughout the day

(2)(a) The requirement has been met. The service has a fully enclosed outdoor area which is located directly outside the service. The area is surfaced with grass and a section of the area is covered with a safety surface. A climbing frame with a slide, a see saw, a playhouse and a play kitchen are available for the children to play with.

Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services

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.

The proposed registered provider proposes to accommodate pre-school children on a sessional basis, with parents providing snacks from home supported by the service’s healthy eating policy.

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.

<p>Requirement Met:</p>	<p>The requirement has been partially met</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main entrance door to the service is appropriately secured. The door is locked while the service is in operation. The main gate leading from the road outside to the service would be locked during the operational hours. Additionally, a gate leading into the enclosed outdoor area will be securely closed with a bolt located on both sides of the gate. • The play materials and equipment in the service are stored on stable-based low level shelving units. • The warm water temperature in the taps in the sanitary accommodation and in the care room in the service was recorded between 35.7°C and 38.2°C on the day of inspection. The proposed registered provider would ensure that the warm water supply in these taps was thermostatically controlled not to exceed the maximum safe water temperature of 43°C to reduce the risk of scalding for the children. • There is running hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel to support effective hand hygiene at the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation. • A lock was positioned on the outside of the gate in the outdoor play area thus preventing a pre-school child from exiting the area. • Bins are provided for the collection of waste in the care room. Refuse bins are securely stored outside in an area which is inaccessible to the children. • The fire exit is clearly marked in the service. • A fire assembly point has been identified.
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A lock was not positioned on the inside of the front gate to prevent entry to the service. 2. There were no window restrictors on the windows to the rear of the service. 3. There was no internal door in place leading from the hallway to the registered providers home to prevent children from accessing the registered providers' home.
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>Photographic evidence has been received from the registered provider indicating that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A lock has been positioned on the inside of the front gate. 2. Window restrictors are in situ. 3. The internal door preventing children from accessing the registered providers family residence has been fitted.

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Summary Comment:	The photographic evidence submitted by the registered provider demonstrates that the issues identified have been rectified and therefore the regulatory requirement has been met.
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid	
<p>(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.</p> <p>(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—</p> <p>(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</p>	
Requirement met:	(2)(a) The first aid box is available, suitably equipped and safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position on a high shelf in the pre-school room.
Requirement not met:	(1) A person trained in first aid for children would not be available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service as the proposed registered provider has not yet undertaken First Aid Response (FAR) training.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider has forwarded a copy of her First Aid Response (FAR) training certificate.
Summary Comment:	As a copy of the registered providers First aid responder training certificate has been received the regulatory requirement has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures	
<p>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—</p> <p>(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and</p> <p>(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.</p>	
Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been partially met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The proposed registered provider has a template which would be used to record fire drills that would take place monthly at the service.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the premises.</p>

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Requirement not met:	(1)(b) A record in writing was not available of firefighting equipment or smoke alarms in the service.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider has forwarded a receipt for the purchase of fire extinguishers and a copy of the maintenance record of the soke alarm.
Summary Comment:	The evidence submitted by the registered provider demonstrates that the issue identified have been rectified and therefore the regulatory requirement has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. An insurance certificate was provided to the registration office on 1 st November 2022, valid from 07/11/22 until 27/03/23 covering a maximum of 22 children on a sessional basis.
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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:	<p>The requirement has been partially met.</p> <p>(a) The building appears to be of a sound and stable structure.</p> <p>(b) The building was safe and secure. The entrance door to the service and the internal door are secured adequately to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.</p> <p>(c) The care room in the service has a number of windows which provides the room with natural light. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Appropriate shatter proof coverings are provided on one of the ceiling lighting.</p> <p>The temperature of the care room was 18.5°C on the day of inspection.</p> <p>There are sufficient windows provided in the care room to achieve adequate ventilation.</p> <p>The service is heated by oil fired central heating through an underfloor heating system.</p>
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Requirement not met:	<p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The floor between the two adjoining care spaces was uncovered and uneven underfoot. 2. The skirting board was absent on the wall between the 2 care spaces. 3. The light in one of the care areas had 3 bulbs which were not covered or shatterproof. <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 2 toilets that were available for the preschool children to use were located beside each other with no partition provided. This would not provide sufficient privacy for the children using the toilet. 2. There was no hand towel dispenser provided in the bathroom for the children to access paper towels hygienically in order to dry their hands.
Response from Provider:	<p>Photographic evidence has been received from the registered provider indicating that</p> <p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The floor between the 2 care spaces has been covered. 2. The skirting boards have been placed on the wall. 3. Shatterproof light bulbs have been placed in the light fitting. <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A partition has been placed between the 2 toilets in addition to doors to the front of the toilet. 2. A hand towel dispenser has been fitted to the wall.
Summary Comment:	<p>The photographic evidence submitted by the registered provider demonstrates that the issue identified have been rectified and therefore the regulatory requirement has been met.</p>

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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The clear floor space of the care room is 32.84 m². This provides sufficient space for the 18 children who are proposed to be cared for in this room on a sessional basis.</p>
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