

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2022KE004

Name of Service Shining Stars Academy Ltd.,

Address of Service: Glebelands, Athy, Co. Kildare, R14 TK25

Email Address: christine.bowden13@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Christine Bowden

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

Proposed change:

- The service proposes to open to increase the numbers of children attending from 66 – 77.
- The service proposes to increase the numbers of staff employed from 15 – 17.
- Internal material alterations were completed on the large care room on the right-hand side to create three smaller care rooms

Proposed Number of Children: 77

Recommended Change Following Inspection: The service has met all requirements in relation to the proposed changes.

Registered change:

- 77 children inclusive of full day and sessional (including the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme.
- 66 children attending on a full day / part time care.
- Maximum of 16 staff employed due to the sanitary facilities

Date of Inspection:	0	2	0	9	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: Therese Duignan

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W

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Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered full day care, part time and sessional service for 77 children (66 full day / part time).
Date of Registration	13 th September 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).

Description of Service	Shining Stars Academy Ltd. provides full day, part time and sessional care and education to pre-school children aged 0 to 6 years. School age care is provided also. The service operates from 7.30am – 18.30 hours Monday to Friday.
Premises	The premises is a purpose-built facility located at ground level in a housing development in a residential area on the outskirts of Athy, Co. Kildare. There are five care rooms and a separate cot room provided; a kitchen and an office are also available. There are enclosed and secured outdoor spaces at the rear and sides of the premises. Set down and parking facilities are available outside the premises.
Staffing	The registered provider was present. The person in charge facilitated the inspection. Fourteen adults were present on the day of the inspection. All adults employed and working directly with pre-school children had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.
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

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	<p>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>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, 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.

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured that there is a designated a person in charge and a named person 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:

The requirement is met.

(1) The registered provider has ensured that there will be at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service including the additional 11 children.

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) The three pre-school rooms had suitable play materials and equipment displayed on low level shelving and accessible to the children. A sufficient and appropriate number of child-size tables and chairs to cater for the proposed number of children was available.

Five cots and five floor beds were available for children aged under 2 years requiring sleep.

There were twenty-one low level beds available for children aged 2 years and above requiring sleep.

(b) The rest areas consisted of child sized seating, soft mats and soft furnishings which were comfortably arranged and presented. They were available in each of the preschool rooms for any child wishing to take a break from activities and to rest.

(2)(b) The outside play area was safe, suitable and secure. It was enclosed by a by high level metal boundary fence, two electromagnetic secured internal gates on the left and right-hand sides and an electromagnetic secured gate at the entrance to the premises.

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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:

The requirement is met.

The service has a healthy eating policy in place.

A three-week menu was available and demonstrated varied and nutritious food freshly prepared. A cook is employed to prepare food daily for the children. Children's dietary needs are catered for.

All children bring their own morning snack, and the service provides the snack in the afternoon for the children. Water is freely available to the children at all times.

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.

Access to the three pre-school rooms is through the main entrance to the service which is electronically secured and is controlled by staff members. The entrance doors in the care rooms and the doors to the outdoor areas in each care room are secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised.

Cleaning agents are safely stored out of the reach of children.

There is storage space in the pre-school rooms to store the children's personal belongings safely.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap, paper hand towels are available in the sanitary areas for hygienic hand washing and drying and foot pedal operated bins for hygienic and safe disposal of used paper towel and tissues are available.

Nappy changing facilities are available.

The fire exits are clearly marked and unobstructed.

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Requirement not met:	1. Finger protection door hinge guards to prevent children’s fingers accidentally being trapped in to the door gaps, were not fitted to the doors in Toddler room and the ECCE room leading to the sanitary area.
Response from proposed provider:	1. Finger protector fitted on all doors to the sanitary areas.
Summary comment:	The written response and photographs have been reviewed. The requirement is met.

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) Five adults working in the service have current certification in first aid for children. (2)(a)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes are available and accessible to children in 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 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:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(a) Documentation was available for recording monthly fire drills. The most recent fire drill was conducted on 8 August 2024.</p> <p>(b) There were maintenance records available of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm, which were 26 September 2023 and 1 October 2023, respectively.</p> <p>(4) 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 is met.</p> <p>An insurance certificate was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. 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 quotation for insurance cover for 77 children. The insurance cover was valid from 30 July 2024 – 27 March 2025.</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:

- (a) Visually, the proposed pre-school rooms and premises were in a state of good repair.
- (b) The pre-school rooms were located in the premises and were secured from unauthorised entry by an electronically secured main door which was controlled by staff members.
- (c) There were openable windows in the proposed pre-school rooms providing natural daylight and ventilation.
Recessed spot lights were in place to provide additional artificial lighting were fitted also.
The sanitary areas were ventilated by an openable window and a mechanical ventilation system was present in the nappy change area to ensure that the air is circulated in this enclosed space.
An air conditioning unit was present in the cot room and the Toddler room to manage the environmental temperatures.
- (d) Daily cleaning schedules were in place for the pre-school rooms and sanitary areas.

Requirement not met:

- (c)
 1. The light in internal sanitary area attached to the Wobbler room was not working.
- (d)
 2. The following was observed in the internal sanitary area attached to the Wobbler room:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There pipework required for the for toilet and wash hand basin was exposed. • The wooden door frame surround at the entrance to the sanitary area required to be sealed at the juncture between frame and wall to ensure a smooth finish. • The edge of units around sink and nappy change unit required to be sealed to a smooth finish. • A mark in the ceiling required to be smooth and painted. <p>3. The following was observed in the internal sanitary area attached to the Wobbler room:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plaster around the switch for ventilation on outside wall was chipped and required to be sealed and painted to a smooth finish. • Dried expanding foam was observed at the juncture of ceiling and wall above the wall mounted TV and required to be finished to smooth finish. <p>4. The second window on right hand side in ECCE room did not open.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>5. The service was not equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities as demonstrated by the following:</p> <p>Sanitary area between Toddler room and ECCE room:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were two toilets, three sinks, two nappy change units. Another wash hand basin is required for the second nappy change unit. • The requirement for one toilet and one wash hand basin for every eight adults employed in the service was not met as there were two toilets and two wash hand basins facility available for the proposed 17 staff members to use in the service. Three toilets and three wash hand basins were required.
<p>Response from proposed provider:</p>	<p>(c)</p> <p>1. Movement sensor has been rectified and now the light stays on and does not deem down.</p>

(d)

2.

- Pipe work covered with a wooden unit.
- Wooden frame in the sanitary area of the wobbler room has been smooth down.
- Skirting board added to the edges around the nappy unit to avoid dirt going inside. Edges of the sink has been sealed.
- Mark in the ceiling has been covered and painted.

3.

- Plaster around the switch for ventilation has been fixed.
- Dried expanded foam covered.

4. Window has been fixed and now it can open.

(e)

5.

- Big sink removed in the Sanitary area between toddler and ECCE room and replaced with 2 sinks.
- During the service manager and inspector calculated the number of adults hired in the creche:
 - Wobbler room 10 children – 2 adults.
 - Toddler room 12 children – 2 adults.
 - ECCE 1 room 11/9 children – 1 adult.
 - ECCE 2 room 22/16 children – 2 Adults
 - ECCE 3 room 22/16 children – 2 Adults.
 - Out of rooms: 1 manager; 1 assistant manager; 1 chef
 - Potential AIMS to be hired 3.
 - Max of adults in the building counting potential AIM staff is 15 adults to be in the building at the same time.
- We do not require a 3rd toilet and hand wash basin for the service.

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Summary comment: The written response and photographs have been reviewed. The requirement is met.

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.

Requirement met: The requirement has been met.
(1), (2)
Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of 77 children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated in the table below:

Room	Room 1 1 st room LHS of Corridor	Room 2 2 nd room LHS of Corridor	Toddler room	ECCE room	Wobbler room 1 st room LHS of Corridor
Clear floor space	40.5 m ²	39.8 m ²	28.5 m ²	20.5 m ²	27.4 m ²
Proposed age range	3-6 years	3-6 years	2-3 years	3-6 years	1-2 years
Maximum number children	18 (FDC) 22 (Sessional)	17 (FDC) 22 (Sessional)	12 (FDC)	9 (FDC) 11 (Sessional)	10 (FDC)