

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



Tusla I.D: TU2022MO001

Name of Service: Lollys and Robins Montessori

Address of Service: St. Josephs Primary School, Ramolin, Shrule, Co. Mayo. H91 Y232

Email Address: lollysandrobins@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Elayne Walsh

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: New Sessional Service

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Registered service: Sessional service for 22 children

Date of Inspection:	2	0	0	1	2	0	2	2
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Inspection Undertaken by: M. Farrell

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, 2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered sessional service for 22 preschool children

Date of Registration: 11th February 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 service is a privately operated sessional service, catering for children from two to six years of age. Lollys and Robins will open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 12.30am and the service proposes to cater for up to twenty-two children at any one time. An established sister service is located in a nearby premises.
Premises	Lollys and Robins proposes to be located in a designated section of a primary school in Shrule, Co Mayo. There is one large playroom, a store area, sanitary facilities and shared access to an enclosed outdoor play area.
Staffing	One adult is proposed to work in the service with a person identified to provide assistance in the event of an emergency. An adult is available to provide relief cover in the proposed service.
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 two themes; Governance, and Safety.</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 Panel 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 proposed registered provider who was 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:

- (1) The requirement has been met.
- (a) There is a designated person in charge for the proposed service which is initially to be run singlehandedly. A named person is available 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)—*
 - (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)
 - There will be one staff member working directly with the seven children initially enrolled in the proposed service.
- (8)
 - (b) Not applicable as the service proposes to provide a sessional service.
 - (c) There will be a second person familiar with the operation of the service available at all times within close distance and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency at all times.

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, or*
 - (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.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph applies, shall ensure that—*
 - (a) *a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or*

(b) where no such space is provided, the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.

- (4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph (4), the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

Requirement met:

- (1) (a)
 The requirement has been met.
 The preschool playroom has a variety of age-appropriate toys and equipment available at a low level to facilitate a child-led learning environment. The entrance to the playroom is welcoming and attractively decorated using a jungle theme with artificial leaves and foliage, and toy jungle animals.
 The playroom is appealing laid out with clearly defined areas of interest that are labelled. The interest areas are very well resourced such as a home corner/role play area including a mock fireplace, kitchen appliances and dolls with accessories, a shop area, writing/craft area, small world area, transport and construction areas. A wide selection of tabletop activities and puzzles of varying degrees of complexities are provided. There is a selection of practical life Montessori equipment and activities in the investigation area and a messy play area containing a table for water or sand play. A range of age-appropriate books on real-life and fairy tale themes are displayed with their covers visible to facilitate selection by children in the library area.
- (b)
 The requirement has been met.
 A large rest area with soft seating, coloured rugs and cushions is provided beside the library area providing a cosy environment where children can sit and relax if they wish.
- (2) (a)
 The requirement has been partially met.
 The proposed service has access to a secure enclosed outdoor area on a shared basis with the primary school. The area is walled and has two access gates that have securing mechanisms in place to prevent a child from leaving unnoticed and to restrict unauthorised access. The outdoor area is accessed directly from the rear of the building via an emergency exit door.
- (b)
 Not applicable as the service is not moving premises.
- (3) Not applicable.
 (4) Not applicable.
 (5) Not applicable.

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Requirement not met:	<p>(2) (a)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The play equipment in the proposed enclosed outdoor area is limited and consists of a large swing/slide system only. The ropes of the two swings are frayed and the height of the swings from the ground are 56cm and 76cm which is high for a preschool child. Impact resistant matting tiles are in place in sections under the slide/swing system but there are potential areas for a child to fall on tarmacadam and sustain an injury. The enclosed outdoor area has ground covering of tarmacadam with a large amount of leaves and moss covering sections of the area and poses potential slip hazards to preschool children.
Response from Provider:	<p>(3) (a)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The swings and ropes have been replaced. The swings lowered to a height to suit preschool children. Impact resistant matting has been purchased and will be installed when the moss has been removed. Balls, hoops and spare ride-on toys are available for use in the area. All leaves have been removed and the moss has been treated. <p>Evidence submitted: The following evidence was submitted by the proposed registered provider to the Early Years Inspectorate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Photographic evidence of the replacement of the swings with new swings at a lower height and evidence of the purchase of impact resistant tiles for installation following the removal of the moss after treatment has been completed. Photographic evidence of the removal of the leaves and the treatment of the moss in process.
Summary Comment:	<p>The actions taken together with the evidence submitted by the proposed registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate and deemed to have met the requirements of the regulation.</p>

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:	<p>The requirement is partially met as outlined below:</p> <p>General Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure storage is provided for all cleaning equipment and materials in a store area located off the playroom. The proposed service plans to operate from 9.30-12:30 hours to facilitate safe drop off and collection of children whilst observing social distancing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent congregation of large numbers of people at the entrance door to the primary school. The toys and play equipment provided are age-appropriate, clean and in good condition. Additional supplies of toys and play equipment are stored in themed
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	<p>labelled, lidded boxes in the storage area. Storage units and furniture supplied have broad stable bases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storage is available for medication on high shelving to prevent access by the children. A supply of potable water is provided in the service. A service record of the heating system in the proposed service was available with the last servicing of the system undertaken in September 2021. Electrical cables had been boxed off with wooden casing to prevent access by children. Wands are in place to control the operation of blind cords. <p>Infection control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand sanitiser dispensers containing hand sanitiser for hand hygiene purposes are provided in the service in particular at the entrance door to the service. An area of the playroom has been identified as an isolation area to be used in the event of symptoms of COVID-19 occurring in a child or adult whilst in attendance in the proposed service. Personal protective equipment including disposable aprons, masks and gloves are to be available at all times should they be required. The playroom was observed to be clean. Detailed cleaning and disinfecting schedules are in place incorporating measures to address COVID-19. A protocol is in place for the cleaning/disinfection of mouthed toys in the service with a red labelled box provided to store the toy until the procedures have been carried out. A refrigerator is provided for the storage of perishable food items. Foot pedal operated bins are provided for the storage of waste. Waste is stored outdoors in an enclosed area in the grounds of the primary school. There is no evidence of rodent activity in the preschool premises. A pest control policy is in place in the service. <p>Fire Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The emergency exit door was free from obstruction during the inspection.
Requirement not met:	<p>General Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There was no securing mechanism on the main entrance door to the service. <p>Infection control</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The mechanical ventilation vents on the ceilings in the adult and child sanitary units were dusty and required deep cleaning. <p>Fire Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The fire assembly point located to the side of the premises was not clearly identified and visible.
Response from Provider:	<p>General Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A security latch has been fitted to the entrance door to the room the service is operating out of. <p>Infection control</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The vents have been cleaned. <p>Fire Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The fire assembly point notice has been fitted.

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	<p>Evidence submitted: The following evidence was submitted by the proposed registered provider to the Early Years Inspectorate:</p> <p>General Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Photographic evidence of the installation of a securing mechanism to the main entrance door to the service. <p>Infection control</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Photographic evidence of the cleaning of the mechanical ventilation vents. <p>Fire Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Photographic evidence of a clearly identifiable assembly point.
Summary Comment:	The actions taken together with the evidence submitted by the proposed registered provider has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate and deemed to have met the requirements of the regulation.

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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (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 	
Requirement met:	<p>The requirements are partially met.</p> <p>(2)(a)</p> <p>A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in easily accessible shelving in the playroom area and is to be available at all times in the pre-school service should a child require treatment.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(1)</p> <p>The proposed registered provider submitted documentary evidence of the enrolment on a first aid for children training course for an adult to commence on the 15th of February 2022. The requirement will remain unmet until successful completion of the first aid for children training course by the adult.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(1) First aid training courses for the adult are to commence on the 16th of February 2022.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirement will be met on successful completion of the first aid for children training course by the adult.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures	
<p>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (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. <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>	

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Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) (a) The proposed registered provider submitted copies of templates for the recording of all monthly fire drills to take place on the premises.</p> <p>(b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The firefighting equipment was last service on the 1st of September 2021 and the fire detection and alarm system was last inspected and tested on the 9th of November 2021.</p> <p>(4) Detailed notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed on the entrance door to the service.</p>
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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance	
<i>A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.</i>	
Requirement not met:	There is no insurance certificate for the service including insurance cover for outings. It is acknowledged that the service has obtained a quote from an insurance company for insurance cover for twenty-two children attending on a sessional basis to expire on the 28 th of February 2022.
Response from Provider:	A quote for insurance has been obtained and will be put in place when an opening date has been agreed.
Summary Comment:	The requirement has been met. The service has adequate insurance cover from the 18/2/2022 to the 28/2/2022. This was forwarded to the registration office on the 12 th January 2022.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises	
<i>A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—</i>	
<p>(a) <i>of sound and stable structure,</i></p> <p>(b) <i>safe and secure,</i></p> <p>(c) <i>kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,</i></p> <p>(d) <i>cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and</i></p> <p>(e) <i>equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities</i></p>	
Requirement met:	<p>(a) The early years service is proposed to be located in a primary school building of a bricks and mortar construction. On visual inspection of the building there were no obvious visible deficits.</p> <p>(c) Lighting: There is both natural and artificial lighting provided in the premises which is adequate and suitable for the provision of a childcare service. The six light fittings in the playroom and two light fittings in the sanitary areas are encased with protective covers. There are six large windows and two skylight windows providing natural light in the playroom and each sanitary area has a window allowing natural light to enter.</p> <p>Heating:</p>

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	<p>The heating is supplied by electrical heaters in the playroom. The heat emitted from the heaters was found to be controlled below 50°C during the inspection.</p> <p>Ventilation:</p> <p>The playroom is ventilated by means of openable windows. Trickle vents are in place on the six large windows to facilitate passive ventilation. The sanitary accommodation is ventilated by means of openable windows and mechanical ventilation systems.</p> <p>(d) The premises is clean and well maintained throughout. Detailed cleaning schedules including consideration of COVID-19 precautions are in place for all areas of the service.</p> <p>(e) There are seven children enrolled in the proposed service at present. There are two sanitary units, each containing one wash hand basin and one toilet, situated off the playroom. It is proposed by the proposed registered provider that initially one of the sanitary units will be allocated to the children and the second sanitary unit will be allocated to the adult in the service. When the number of children attending the service exceeds eleven children, the second sanitary unit off the playroom will be used by the additional children. The service has agreement with the primary school that the adults will then have access to the staff sanitary facilities in the primary school. The hot water temperatures of the child and adult wash hand basins were recorded at 36.5°C and 36.7°C respectively during the inspection. Liquid soap, paper hand towels and foot pedal operated bins are provided for hygienic hand washing and drying.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(b) There is no securing mechanism on the entrance door to the proposed service to prevent a child from leaving unnoticed and unauthorised entry to the pre-school service.</p> <p>(c) Heating:</p> <p>The air temperatures of the child sanitary area and the adult sanitary areas were recorded at 13.8 °C and 13.7 °C respectively during the inspection which is below the required range of 18-22 °C for sanitary areas.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>(b) A security mechanism has been fitted to the entrance door to the room the service is operating out of.</p> <p>(c) Heating:</p> <p>Tubular heaters have been fitted in each of the toilet cubicles. Guards are to be fitted over the heaters on the 5th of February 2022.</p> <p>Evidence submitted:</p> <p>The following evidence was submitted by the proposed registered provider to the Early Years Inspectorate:</p> <p>(b) Photographic evidence of the installation of a security mechanism to the entrance door to the room the service is operating out of.</p> <p>(c) Heating:</p> <p>Photographic evidence of the guards fitted to tubular heaters in the toilet cubicles.</p>

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Summary Comment:	The actions taken together with the evidence submitted by the proposed registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate and deemed to meet requirements.
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

Requirement met:	<p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a sessional pre-school service, and (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3). <p>(5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.</p>
Requirement met:	<p>(1) The requirement has been met. The indoor clear floor space in the premises measures 68.7 square metres and can readily accommodate the work, play and movement of up to twenty-two children attending a preschool service.</p> <p>(2) Not applicable as the proposed service is to be a sessional service.</p> <p>(3) The requirement of a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space for the age range of the children proposed to attend the sessional service has been met.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable as the proposed service is to offer sessional services only.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable as the proposed service is not a temporary preschool service.</p>