

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



Tusla I.D:	TU2023DL003							
Name of Service:	The Meadow Childcare							
Address of Service:	Ballygay., Milford, Donegal. F92F6YA							
Email Address:	themeadowchildcare@outlook.com							
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Neasa McBride							
Type of Proposed Service:	Sessional	x	Part-Time		Drop-In			
	Full Day Care		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed service type:	Sessional service							
Proposed Number of Children:	22 preschool children							
Registered service:	Sessional service to accommodate up to 15 preschool children maximum.							
Date of Inspection:	1	4	0	8	2	0	2	3
Inspection Undertaken by:	L. Costello							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84							
Rationale for Inspection								
Proposed New Service								
Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office								
Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 15 Children							
Date of Registration:	22 nd August 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	The applicant is proposing to operate a sessional service to cater for a maximum of 22 children aged from 2-3 and 3-6 years. It is proposed that there will be one care room in operation
Premises	The premises is located in a rural area 3 km from the town of Milford. The service is located on the grounds of the registered providers family home in a newly renovated building. The service will consist of one preschool room, a kitchenette, sanitary accommodation for the children and staff. Off street parking is available for pickups and drops offs
Staffing	It is proposed there will be two adults working directly with the children.
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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) (a). There is a designated person in charge and a designated deputy in charge.

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:

- (1). The applicant is aware of the requirements in relation to adult child ratios and will ensure they are met when the service commences.
- (8) (b) Not applicable.
- (c) The registered provider will not be operating single handily as two staff are employed in the service.

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.

Requirement met:

- (1)(a).
 The proposed preschool room provides adequate and suitable facilities for children to play indoors. Interest areas in the preschool room consist of a home corner, library,

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	<p>and construction area. The preschool room is well resourced with jigsaws, building blocks, modelling clay, arts and crafts, farm animals, dolls, shops and sensory toys. Low level accessible shelving will allow the children to choose the resources they wish to play with and facilitate a child led approach to learning.</p> <p>(b). There is a cosy area in the corner of the room consisting of a bean bag, matt, and cushions to give children the opportunity to rest or to opt out of an activity.</p> <p>(2). There is a secure outdoor area surrounding the building with various materials and resources including bikes, trikes, and balance bikes. Opportunities for messy play with water tables and sand tables, playhouses and farms.</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:	<p>The following measures were noted on the day of inspection to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of children and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions were made to prevent adults gaining unauthorised entry to the facility by way of secure entry and exit points. • The outdoor play area was fully enclosed with wooden-based grid fencing throughout. There were no observable hazards on the grounds of the outdoor area. Toys and equipment appeared in good condition, appropriate for the proposed age group of children and free from obvious hazards. • Waste bins were appropriately secured and not accessible to children. • Suitable hand washing facilities including liquid soap and single use paper towels were provided in the children’s and adults sanitary accommodation and in the
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	<p>preschool rooms. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available in all wash hand basins accessible to children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The premises and play equipment were visibly clean. Cleaning equipment and materials were stored in high level shelving area that was secured and not accessible to children. • There was a fridge in the care room for the safe storage of perishable items.
Requirement not met:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visibility strips are required on the large glass sliding doors in the care room. 2. Keys for the storage cupboard and for access to upstairs to be removed from the doors and placed out of the reach of children to prevent unsupervised access or risk of safety.
Response from Provider:	<p>The registered provider has provided evidence of the following after the inspection.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence of visibility strips to reduce the risk of children not seeing the large glass door. 2. Evidence of safety latches placed on storage area to prevent unauthorised access.
Summary Comment:	<p>The Early years Inspector has reviewed the evidence submitted by the register provider. This requirement is now met.</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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) One staff member has up to date training in First Aid responder. Certification was available on the day of inspection, due for renewal in November 2024.

(2) (a)

A suitably stocked first aid box was provided in the service and is always available to the preschool children.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

A new fire alarm and smoke detection system and extinguishers have been installed with an installation date of the 25.07.23.

(a) A template is available for the recording of fire drills.

(b) A record of the available fire fighting equipment in the service is recorded in the fire safety folder.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was available and displayed in the preschool. The fire assembly point was clearly identified and situated a safe distance from buildings.

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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:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The full insurance submitted is sufficient for 22 children in a sessional service and has an expiry date of 27.03.2024.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(a)

The service is located on the ground floor of a converted garage which on visual inspection appears to be structurally sound. The building consists of a preschool room, sanitary accommodation, and a kitchenette.

(b).

The service is safe and secure with a locked entrance door. The perimeter of the building is secured by wooden fencing.

(c)

Lighting: Lighting in the preschool room is provided by means of natural light with one large sliding door and one openable window. Natural light is supplemented by the provision of two covered florescent lights. There are additional lights in the sanitary areas.

Heating: The room temperature was adequate on the day of inspection. Heating is by means of electric storage heaters which are thermostatically controlled. This system has been recently installed in July 2023 and will require annual servicing.

Ventilation:

Ventilation in the preschool room is by means of openable windows and doors. In the sanitary accommodation mechanical ventilation is in operation.

(d)

The premises, toys and equipment are in a good state of repair. The registered provider had prepared cleaning duties and schedules of cleaning to be recorded.

(e)

Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities are provided in the proposed preschool I.e

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- Two toilets and wash hand basins are provided for the children. Sanitary accommodation is located adjacent to the preschool room.
- One toilet and wash hand basin is provided for staff use.
- One designated hand wash basin is located in the preschool room.

The sanitary areas all have a supply of thermostatically controlled running water, a supply of liquid soap and paper towels.

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.*
- (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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children.

(3) A clear floor area of 27.751 m² was measured in the preschool room which is sufficient to cater for a maximum of 15 pre-school children aged between 2 and 6 years to attend the sessional service.

These measurements were agreed with the registered provider at the time of the Fit for Purpose inspection.