

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2023DL005
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Name of Service:	Wonderyears CS
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Address of Service:	Cashelshanaghan, Ramelton Road, Letterkenny Co Donegal
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Email Address:	cs@wonderyearselc.ie
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Marcella McNamee
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type:	Full day care
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Proposed Number of Children:	131
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection	Recommend that service be registered as a Full day care service caring for a maximum of 113 children at any one time sessional and a maximum of 102 children for a part-time or full day care service.
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Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care / Part Time / Sessional Service for 113 Children (Max 102 PT/FDC)
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Date of Inspection:	1	4	0	8	2	0	2	3
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Inspection Undertaken by:	A Spain
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Title:	Registration Support Manager
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue Tullamore, Co Offaly
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care / Part Time / Sessional Service for 113 Children (Max 102 PT/FDC)
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Date of Registration:	31 st 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	Wonderyears CS is a proposed full day service located between the towns of Letterkenny and Ramelton in north Donegal. The service proposes to care for children in the age range 1 year to 6 years between the hours of 8.30am and 5.15pm for 52 weeks of the year. The service also proposes to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). The service is located close to three primary schools and proposes to provide a school age service between the hours of 2.00 and 5.15pm. The registered provider proposes to work in the service in a management capacity.
Premises	The two storey standalone premises comprises of two playrooms, a dedicated soft ball play room, three sleep rooms, sanitary accommodation for both children and staff, nappy changing areas, a reception area, an office, a kitchen, a cleaning store room, a laundry room and a staff room at ground floor level. A further three playrooms, a nappy changing room and sanitary accommodation for children are proposed for use at first floor level. An outdoor play area for the sole use of the service is provided at both the front and side of the building. Off the road parking is provided at the front of the service.
Staffing	The service proposes to open with nine childcare staff which includes the registered provider. Staff have qualifications in childcare at Quality and Qualifications Ireland(QQI) level 5 to level 8. Experience in childcare varies from 5 to 15 years. One staff member has also availed of Leadership for Inclusion (Link) training. In addition the service proposes to employ two ancillary staff members namely a cook and a house keeper.
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 four themes; Management and Staff, Care of Child in Pre-school Services, Safety, Premises and Space Requirements.

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	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 the registering application. 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.
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:	This requirement has been met. (1)(a) The service has both a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. Both staff members are proposed to work directly in the service.
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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:	This requirement has been met. (1) The registered provider proposes to initially have the following number of staff to care for the following initially proposed number of children in the service.
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Room name	Number of children	Age range	Type of service	Staff available	Staff required
Tiny Tots	15	1 – 2 years	FDC	3	3

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Junior Einstein	18	2 – 3 years	FDC		3
Little Stars	16	3 – 5 years	FDC	2	2
Little Scholars	22	3 – 6 years	Sessional	2	2
Little smarties	22	3 – 6 years	Sessional	2	2
Maximum number of children	93				

It is acknowledged that the total number of children remaining after sessional hours for a part-time and full day care service will reduce to a maximum of 48 children across the three playrooms at first floor level with 2 staff members available in each room to care for the children present.

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, 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) All five playrooms in the service are suitable equipped with age and developmentally appropriate toys and play equipment for the proposed age range of children in the service. Low level containers and open shelving is provided in all playrooms for children to easily select and retrieve toys and play equipment of their choice.

The large selection of play materials are easily cleanable and in a good state of repair and maintenance. Defined areas of interest in the brightly painted and laid out rooms include home corners, construction areas, art areas, dress up areas and both activity centres, rattlers and sensory materials to cater for the younger age profile of children in the service. A range of puzzles, games and jigsaws are provided for table top activities. Low level seating and tables are provided in all playrooms for children to sit for both play and meals in the service.

(b) Rest areas are provided in all three playrooms at first floor level and in “Tiny Tots” at ground floor level. Picture evidence was submitted on the 16 August 2023 to confirm the provision of a rest area in “Junior Einsteins” at ground floor level. The rest areas comprise of soft low level washable seating, soft cushions and floor mats in areas of the playrooms which are provided with books and soft toys.

Two separate sleep rooms with 9 cots in the case of one sleep room and 6 cots in the case of the second playroom are provided to allow the proposed 15 children in “Tiny Tots” to sleep and rest on demand in areas outside of the playrooms.

Subsequent to inspection picture evidence was submitted on the 16 August which confirms the provision of 14 low level beds in a sleep room off “Little Einsteins” should the children in the age profile 2 to 3 years require to rest and sleep in areas outside of the playroom.

A reserve supply of low level beds is also held in storage in the service should children cared for over the three play rooms at first floor level require rest and sleep after sessional hours while other children continue to play across the rooms in use.

(2)(a) Two separate outdoor play areas are provided directly outside of the service for daily access by preschool children. The outdoor play area at the front of the service has an all-weather surface. A variety of low level swings , slides and toys on springs which are anchored to the ground are provided in this area.

A second outdoor play area at the side of the premises has a combination of a smooth tarmac surface and an all-weather surface. Toys and play equipment in this area include outdoor kitchens and sinks, toys on wheels, sand boxes and a wooden vehicle with a steering wheel anchored to the ground. A grass surfaced area is also available on the boundary of the outdoor play areas to use for planting and a nature area.

The outdoor play areas are safely secured by heavy duty plastic fencing to guard against unsupervised exit by children playing outdoors. There is direct access to the outdoor play area off “Tiny Tots” at ground floor level. A stairs at both the front and

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	<p>back of the landing at first floor level provides access for the three playrooms at first floor level to the outdoor play area.</p> <p>A separate soft ball room is provided in the service for children to avail of play in enclosed areas containing soft balls and slides.</p>
Requirement not met:	(1)(b) The proposed location of sleep for part-time and full day care children is not permissible at first floor level as outlined in correspondence to the service by local fire Officer for the area.
Response from Provider:	(1)(b) Both picture evidence and written confirmation was submitted by the service on the 29 August 2023 confirming that a section of the ball room at ground floor level is converted to a rest and sleep area. Picture evidence confirmed the provision of low level beds, soft couches and cushions in the dedicated rest area. The room is provided with openable windows for ventilation purposes.
Summary Comment:	The measures taken by the service meet the requirements of Regulation 20(1)(b) and will be reviewed on next inspection.

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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>The service proposes to provide all meals and snacks for children in attendance. A kitchen is provided which is equipped with refrigeration, cooking, and reheating facilities. Both wash up and hand washing facilities are provided. Presses are provided to store dried foods, delph, drinking beakers and cutlery for use at meal times.</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:

This requirement has been met.

The following measures have been taken by the service to secure the children’s health, safety and welfare and to ensure that the environment of the service is safe.

Environment of the Service:

- The front entrance door to the service is secured and proposed for use by staff only to avoid large groups of children cared for in different rooms seeking simultaneous access to the service.
- There is direct access to both playrooms at ground floor level for drop off and collection directly to and from the rooms.
- The stairs at both the front and back of the premises provide a direct access to playrooms at first floor level at drop off and collection times.
- The glass panel doors and reception area allow easy visibility off all seeking unauthorised access to the premises during operation hours.
- The sluice and cleaning store room provides a suitable location for the storage of cleaning equipment and chemicals in an area outside of the playroom.
- A staff room is provided to store staff personal belongings and coats in an area outside of the playrooms.
- Hooks are provided in the hallways to store childrens bags and coats safely off the floors.
- A high level door handle is provided on the playroom door leading directly from the room to the kitchen to deny children to this area. High level door handles also deny children access to the cleaning store room and laundry room in the service.

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- Picture evidence was submitted on the 16 August 2023 to confirm the provision of visibility strips on all low level glass doors and glass panels in the playrooms to guard against impact damage by children in attendance.
- Windows at first floor level are fitted with restricted opening devices.

Infection control:

- Sinks with a constant supply of hot and cold water are provided in all playrooms to assist with cleaning in the rooms.
- The laundry room provides a suitable location for the storage of linen, blankets and materials to be laundered subsequent to use in the rooms.
- Individual baskets are provided in nappy changing areas to store children creams and individual clothing.
- Openable windows are provided in all playrooms to allow a good supply of fresh air directly into the rooms when children and staff are present.
- On site daily cleaning is provided to ensure continuous cleaning of toilets, nappy changing and communal areas in the service.

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:

This requirement has been met.

- (1)(a) A recording system is available to maintain a record of monthly fire drills as conducted in the proposed service.
- (b) The maintenance record for the firefighting equipment confirms that an annual service was conducted in July 2023. The maintenance record for the smoke alarm system confirms that a service was also conducted in July 2023.

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(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire is on display in all playrooms and in the hallway in the service. Subsequent to the inspection a revised notice of the procedure indicating the location of the fire assembly point was submitted on the 16 August 2023 for display in all playrooms. A fire assembly point specific to the service is posted on the fence leading to the outdoor play area at the front of the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

The service has insurance cover for a Full Day Care service with a maximum of 131 children present at any one time. Insurance is valid from 10 July 2023 to 09 July 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 internal rooms are in a good state of repair and maintenance with no evidence of dampness or mould growth. Windows and doors appear to be both water and weather tight when closed.

(b) Entrance to the service is secured. The leased premises is proposed for sole use as a preschool service. There are direct exits from first floor rooms at both the front and back of the premises. A smooth tarmac finish leads to the entrances from outside.

(c) All proposed playrooms and sleep rooms in the service are provided with openable windows to ensure both natural ventilation and day light directly from outside. Light fittings throughout the premises are provided with shatter proof diffusers. The oil fuelled radiators are thermostatically controlled. The oil tank service the heating system is located at the gable end of the premises and in an area children have no access to.

(d) The rooms in the premises have well finished surfaces. Walls are brightly painted and floors are finished with a heavy duty floor lino throughout the premises. The walls and floors in both the childrens and staff sanitary accommodation are finished with smooth easily cleanable tile surfaces.

(e) Sanitary accommodation available for the proposed maximum of 33 children in the two ground floor playrooms is as follows.

Two toilets and one washhand basin is provided directly off “Tiny Tots”

One toilet and one washhand basin is provided directly off “Junior Einsteins”

Two toilets and two washhand basins are available to the children off the ball room.

Two nappy changing stations with one nappy changing mat and one washhand basin in each area are provided close to “Tiny Tots “. Picture evidence of a third nappy changing station and washhand basin close to “Junior Einsteins” was submitted on the 16 August 2023 to accommodate up to 33 children in nappies on the ground floor. A nappy changing station and one washhand basin in provided for up to 11 children in nappies in the first floor playrooms.

Two toilets and two washhand basins are provide off each of the three playrooms at first floor level to accommodate the needs of up to 60 children in daily attendance across the three rooms.

Two toilets and two washhand basins are provided at ground floor level for use by staff working in the service. All internal toilet and nappy changing areas at ground and first floor level are provided with mechanical ventilation. The sanitary accommodation

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of both “Little Smarties” and one toilet cubicle in the case of “ Little Scholars” at first floor level is provided with openable windows for ventilation purposes.

Liquid soap dispenser, thermostatically controlled hot water and foot pedal operated bins are provided adjacent to the sanitary accommodation.

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.

(4)(a)(b) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—

(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).

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) An area of 192.90m² is available across the five playrooms to ensure adequate floor space for a maximum of 113 children in daily attendance in the service.

(4)(a)(b) The following space was recorded for each playroom:

Tiny Tots: Room measurement 52.39m²

This space can cater for a maximum of 19 preschool children aged between 1 to 2 years old.

Junior Einsteins: Room measurement 60.42m²

This space can cater for a maximum of 26 preschool children aged between 2 to 3 years old.

Little Stars: Room measurement 36.80m²

This space can cater for a maximum of 16 preschool children aged between 3 to 4 years old on a full day care basis.

Little Scholars: Room measurement 43.29m²

This space can cater for a maximum of 24 preschool children aged between 3 to 6 years old on a sessional basis or a maximum of 19 preschool children on a full day/part time basis.

Little Smarties: Room measurement 50.16m²

This space can cater for a maximum of 28 preschool children aged between 3 to 6 years old on a sessional basis or a maximum of 22 preschool children on a full day/part time basis.