

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2023DL006

Name of Service: LMNO Childcare

Address of Service: Unit 2 Railway Court, Pearse Road,
Letterkenny, Donegal, F92 C62C

Email Address: Imnoletterkenny@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Eileen Gill and Kieran McWilliams

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, Part-Time, Sessional

Proposed Number of Children: 50 children aged 1-6 years.

Outcome of the F06 Inspection: Approved for a maximum capacity of 44 children, subject to all requirements being met.

Registered service: Registered Full Day Care Service for 44 Children

Date of Inspection:	2	2	1	1	2	0	2	3
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Inspection Undertaken by: N McEndoo

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Donegal Early Years Inspectorate,
St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
F95 XK94

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Full Day Care Service for 44 Children

Date of Registration: 5th December 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	<p>The proposed private childcare facility, LMNO Childcare, aims to provide full day care, part-time and sessional care service for pre-school children aged 1 to 6 years of age. The proposed hours of operation are between 7:30- 18:00 hours, Monday-Friday for 50 weeks of the year. The service will not open for bank holidays, Good Friday, or the Christmas period.</p> <p>The service proposes to accommodate a maximum number of 50 children when it is operating at full capacity. At present approved for 44 children.</p> <p>It is proposed that there will be two care rooms in operation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room 1 will cater for ages 1 to 2 and half years. • Room 2 will cater for ages 2 and half to 6 years.
Premises	<p>The premises is in a commercial area in the town of Letterkenny, adjacent to a local retail park. The service is offered from the converted commercial unit. The accommodation consists of two care rooms, a kitchen, sanitary accommodation, utility area and office.</p>
Staffing	<p>It is proposed there will be six adults working directly with the children.</p>
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 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.</p>
Acknowledgement	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered providers who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy 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 has been met.

(1) The registered provider stated that there will be an adequate number of adults working with the children attending 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, 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 has been met.

(1) (a) The service comprises of two care rooms that provide adequate, suitable, safe and secure facilities for children to play indoors.

Interest areas in both care rooms consisted of a home corner, library, and construction area. The preschool rooms are well resourced with pretend play equipment, building blocks, arts and crafts, and sensory toys. Low level

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	<p>accessible shelving throughout the service allows the children to choose the resources they wish to play with and facilitate a child led approach to learning.</p> <p>(b) The rest areas in each care room were cosy and comfortable, providing adequate, suitable, safe, and secure facilities for children to rest. The cosy areas in both rooms consist of soft padded matts, and cushions to give children the opportunity to rest or to opt out of an activity. Five standard size cots are available to children under 2 years of age. Fifteen low stackable beds are available for sleeping children over the age of 2 years.</p> <p>(2) (a) There is a good sized, secure outdoor area to the rear of the building with various outdoor equipment, including wooden climbing frames and balance bikes. Opportunities for messy play are catered for with sand and water tables.</p>
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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 registered provider informed the inspector that all meals for full day care children are provided within the service. There is a four-week menu plan in place in line with the service healthy eating policy.

Parents of sessional children will be requested to supply lunch for their children. All parents are provided with a copy of the healthy eating policy.

Drinking water will be available to children throughout the day, with milk also offered at mealtimes.

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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 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.

- Provisions were made to prevent unauthorised entry or exit, to or from the facility by way of secure entry and exit points. A magnetic release button has been fitted to surrounding security fence and placed up high out of the reach of children.
- The internal pre-school room doors are each fitted with baby gates.
- Blinds had been fitted with blind cords secured.
- The outdoor play area was enclosed with metal-based grid fencing throughout. There were no observable hazards on the grounds of the outdoor area. Toys and equipment appeared in good condition without any obvious hazards. Equipment was appropriate for the proposed age group of 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 nappy changing room.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water was available in all wash hand basins accessible to children.
- The premises and play equipment were visibly clean. Cleaning equipment and materials were stored in a designated storage area that was secured and not accessible to children. A cleaning schedule was in place.
- There was a fridge available in the kitchen for storage of perishable foods and infant formula sent in from home.
- A daily opening and closing risk assessment and checklist was in place for staff to complete.

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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
 - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

Two staff members have up to date training in First Aid Responder and will be immediately available to the children at all times.

(2) (a) (b)

Three suitably stocked first aid boxes were easily accessible and in a conspicuous place in the service and are always available to the children attending the preschool.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

A new fire alarm and smoke detection system and extinguishers have been installed.

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

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

(4) The fire evacuation procedure was displayed in conspicuous position in the care rooms and the assembly point was noted a safe distance from the building.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

An insurance certificate was available on inspection. The insurance is sufficient for 50 children in a full day care 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:

The requirement has been met.

- (a) The service is located on the ground floor of a converted commercial unit which on visual inspection appears to be structurally sound. The building consists of two care rooms, sanitary accommodation, and a kitchen.
- (b) The service is safe and secure with a locked entrance door, to the front and rear with the perimeter of the outdoor area secured by metal fencing.
- (c) Lighting in the care rooms is provided by means of natural light with large openable window. Natural light is supplemented by the provision of covered ceiling lights. There are additional lights in the sanitary areas.
The room temperature was adequate on the day of inspection. Heating is by means of thermostatically controlled radiators. There is also an air conditioning unit installed on the premises.
Ventilation in the care rooms is by means of openable windows and doors. In the sanitary accommodation mechanical ventilation is in operation.
- (d) The overall building was clean and well maintained. The care rooms were freshly painted and visually clean. The toys and equipment, both indoors and outdoors were all new and in a good state of repair. The registered provider had prepared cleaning schedules to be recorded on.
The service has a contract with pest control.
- (e) There were adequate sanitary facilities available.

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- Three toilets and three child size sinks were available to preschool children. The requirement is one child toilet and one sink for every 11 children. These facilities allow for a maximum of 33 toilet trained children at any given time.
- One nappy changing unit and handwash sink was available. The requirement is one nappy changing unit for every 11 children.
- One toilet and one wash hand basin were provided for adult use. The requirement is one adult toilet and one sink for every 8 adults.
- The sanitary areas were adequately ventilated with working mechanical systems.
- All bins were foot operated.

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.
- (4) 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).
- (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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

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

- Room 1 measured a clear floor space of 43.434 m².
- Room 2 measured a clear floor space of 69.589 m².

Room	Type of service	Clear space required per child (square metres)	Area of space available	No. of children care rooms can accommodate.
Room 1	Full Daycare	1-2 years 2.8 s m ²	43.434	¹ 15
Room 1	Part-time Daycare	1-2 years = 2.8 m ²	43.434	¹ 15
Room 1	Part-time Daycare	2 - 3 years = 2.35 m ²	43.434	¹ 18
Room 1	Full Daycare	2-3 years = 2.35 m ²	43.434	¹ 18
Room 2	Sessional	2½- 6 years = 1.818 m ²	69.589	¹ 38

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Room 2	Full Daycare	3-6 years = 2.3 m ²	69.589	¹ 30
Room 2	Part-time Daycare	3 - 6 years = 2.35 m ²	69.589	¹ 29

¹ **Subject to requirements for Regulation 29(e)- sanitary accommodation.**

This allows a total of 44 children - a maximum of 33 toilet trained children any given time and a maximum of 11 children in nappies at any given time.