

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2023DR005
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Name of Service:	Links Childcare
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Address of Service:	Clay Farm Drive, Clay Farm, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, D18F63H
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Email Address:	gillian@linkschildcare.ie
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Gillian Kelly
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type:	Full Day, Part-Time, Sessional
Proposed Number of Children:	142
Outcome of the F06 Inspection	Space is available to cater for the proposed 142 children. The number of children attending each room must be in accordance with those outlined under Regulation 30.
Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care for 142 Children.

Date of Inspection:	1	9	1	0	2	0	2	3
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Inspection Undertaken by:	Olivia Quill and Sarah Quigley
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Tusla – Child & Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.
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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 for 142 Children.
Date of Registration:	31 st October 2023

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 private childcare facility aims to provide full day care, part-time and sessional care for pre-school children aged 0 – 6 years. A sessional service will be offered daily from 09:30 – 13:00. The proposed hours of operation are between 07:30 – 18:30 Monday to Friday. The service proposes to accommodate a maximum number of 142 children at full capacity.
Premises	The early years service is located at ground floor level and operates from a purpose-built premises within an apartment complex in an urban residential area in Leopardstown, south county Dublin. It is a purpose-built facility with eight care rooms, two cot rooms, a dining area (named activity street), a catering kitchen, a reception area and a staff room. There is an enclosed outdoor space to the side of the premises.
Staffing	The registered provider has appointed a manager for the service and a named person to deputise as required. Initially there will be ten adults working with pre-school children including the service manager. The registered provider stated all staff will have childcare qualifications at least at level 5 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 four themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the Child, Safety and Premises.

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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 Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and the Director of support services 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 has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if 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 has stated that there will be an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service. Ten adults are available to work in the service to ensure the required adult to child ratio is maintained. The registered provider

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stated adults have been recruited to work in the new service and are currently undergoing training in another service owned and operated by the registered provider.

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) Eight care room are provided. The rooms were painted in a soft relaxing colour scheme and decorated with wall murals. All care rooms had good natural light. Each room was well laid out to meet the developmental ages of the children attending. Suitable play equipment in all rooms was located from open low-level shelving for easy access by pre-school children. Designated interest areas including home corners, arts and craft areas, equipment for sand and water play, construction equipment and a selection of books. Each area was well resourced. Low level tables and chairs were provided in all care rooms for mealtimes and table-top activities.

(1)(b) There was two cot rooms provided. The cot room off the Baby room had eight standard cots and in the second cot room between the Wobbler and Toddler 2 room

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	<p>twelve standard cots were provided. The mattresses provided had waterproof covers. Sleep mats were provided and stored in the care rooms for children over two years of age to sleep. Each room had designated rest areas which were well furnished with soft mats, rugs and cushions. In the Baby room an armchair was available so staff could sit comfortably to feed/ nurture a baby.</p> <p>(2)(b) An outdoor area was provided to the side of the premises. This area was divided into four separate areas by wooden fencing and had an impact absorbing surface. Four care rooms had direct access to the outdoor play area. The area was safely secured by a high wall and gates.</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 service has a healthy eating policy. The registered provider confirmed a cook will be employed to provide meals to all children attending the service. A suitable kitchen is available. Food provided includes breakfast, morning snack, lunch (hot dinner) and afternoon snack. Drinking water will be provided in each care room for children. A three-week rotating menu plan was available. The registered provider has notified the relevant health authority regarding the preparation of food on the premises.

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 has been met.

- External doors will be secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. A face recognition system is in operation for access to the service by authorised adults. Throughout the service CCTV cameras will be in operation.
- In the outdoor area the two gates were safely secured. External equipment related to the heating system was fenced off and not accessible to children.
- In the care rooms suitable locks were fitted on low level shelving making storage areas inaccessible. Play equipment and furniture was in good working order.
- Cables and cords were appropriately secured. All window blind cords were secured.
- Emergency escape fire safety signs were in place and emergency exits doors were unobstructed.

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) The person in charge and deputy person in charge had current certification in first aid for children.

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(2)(a), (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and stored in an easily accessible position 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 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) A written recording system was available to record monthly fire drills as conducted when the service is operational.
- (b) There was a record available relating to the number and type of fire fighting equipment which was serviced in September 2023 and for the commissioning of the fire detection and alarm system which was completed in June 2023.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed conspicuously throughout the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

Evidence of full insurance valid from 01/11/23 was submitted to the Registration Office, covering a maximum of 145 Children on a Full Day Care basis.

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) The premises had been purposely built and appeared to be in good condition. The registered provider confirmed that there were no known issues with the structure of the premises.

(b) The premises were observed to be safe and secure. A face recognition system is in place on the main entrance to the premises allowing authorised access only. The gate to the outdoor area was secured preventing unauthorised person from accessing or children leaving the areas unsupervised.

(c) There was a good level of natural lighting in all care rooms with artificial lighting available if required. The artificial lighting consisted of covered ceiling lights. An air to water heating system was used by the service. All care and sleep rooms were fitted with air conditioning units allowing the temperature to be regulated accordingly. Radiators were provided in the corridors. Some of the sanitary areas had openable windows and where there was no natural ventilation a mechanical system was in place. In the care rooms ventilation was by means of windows, doors and mechanical ventilation.

(d) The premises were clean, maintained and in good decorative order. The service was equipped with new furniture and equipment which appeared to be in good working order. A system was in place to maintain a record of cleaning completed.

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(e) Sanitary facilities have been provided in the service. There are six toilets and six wash hand basins designated for children's use. The number of toilets is sufficient for the age range and numbers of children attending as specified in the application. Wash hand basins are also available in the care rooms. The registered provider is aware one toilet/ one nappy changing station is required for every eleven children who use the toilet or who require nappy changing. Thermostatically controlled hot water is available and did not exceed 43°C. There are eight nappy changing units with wash hand basins available. Five toilets and five wash hand basins have been provided for adults.

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.
- (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).

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

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

Room Name	Clear Floor Space available	Proposed age range	Max number children
Room 1			18 (FDC)

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Pre-school 2	42.3 square metres	2.5 - 6 years	23 (Sessional)
Room 2			18 (FDC)
Toddler 3	42.3 square metres	2-3 years	23 (Sessional)
Room 3		0-1 years	10 (FDC)
Baby room	36.1 square metres	1-2 years	13 (FDC)
Room 4			18 (FDC)
Toddler 1	42.3 square metres	2- 3 years	23 (Sessional)
Room 5			15 (FDC)
Wobbler room	41.5 square metres	1-2 years	
Room 6			18 (FDC)
Toddler 2	41.7 square metres	2- 3 years	23 (Sessional)
Room 7			18 (FDC)
Pre-School 1	42.1 square metres	2.5- 6 years	23 (Sessional)
Room 8			18 (FDC)
Pre-School 3	42.5 square metres	2.5- 6 years	23 (Sessional)

(2) The above table illustrates that the service has sufficient clear floor space to accommodate pre-school children in the proposed age ranges attending on a full day care basis.

(4) (a), (b) There was adequate floor space to accommodate the proposed 142 children who may attend during the operation of a concurrent sessional service.