

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2023DS004

Name of Service Little Penguins Firhouse T/A Firhouse Childcare

Address of Service: Firhouse Community and Leisure Centre, Ballycullen Way, Firhouse Dublin 24, D24YY0H

Email Address: briddevereux@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Brid Devereux

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: Change in number of children from 61-83 (addition of a care room).
Change in number of staff employed from 10 to 15 staff
Hours of operation for additional session -09:30-13:00

Proposed Number of Children: 83

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in number of children from 61to 83 children . (Addition of a 4th care room.)
Change in number of staff employed from 10 to 15 staff
Hours of operation for additional session -09:30-13:00

Registered change: Change in number of children from 61to 83 children
Change in number of staff employed from 10 to 15 Staff
Hours of operation for additional session -09:30-13:00

Date of Inspection:	1	7	1	0	2	0	2	5
	2	9	1	0	2	0	2	5

Inspection undertaken by: R Phillips

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Level 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8

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Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 83 Children
Date of Registration	13th November 2025

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	Little Penguins is an Early years' service providing childcare on a sessional basis to children aged from 2 - 6 years, Monday to Friday 38 weeks of the year. The three rooms in operation currently open from 09:00-12:30 daily. The service proposes to provide an additional session from 09:30-13:00
Premises	The service is located in Firhouse Community and Leisure Centre in South County Dublin. There are two enclosed outdoor areas available to the children as well as a sensory garden area and an indoor hall.
Staffing	The service currently employs twelve staff. They plan to increase this by 3 staff to facilitate the proposed additional children. There were twelve adults working directly with the children on the day of inspection. There was a Transition Year student present. The registered provider facilitated the inspection but does not work 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 the following 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 registering the change in circumstance. 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>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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 person 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:

(1)The requirement has been met.

The registered provider proposes to provide a sessional service in a fourth room. The proposed number of staff to work directly with the children is 15.

(8)(a)(c) Not applicable.

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—

(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 (2) 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

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(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

(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:	(2)(b) The two enclosed outdoor play areas and sensory garden area provide ample space for the children to promote their gross motor development. There are outdoor toys stored in each outdoor area, to promote imaginative play, gross motor development and an opportunity to enjoy sensory experiences. (3)(4)(5) N/A.
Requirement not met:	(1)(a)(b) The requirement has not been met. The additional room had no furniture or play materials or equipment for the proposed preschool children to play. The additional room did not have adequate facilities for the proposed additional preschool children to rest
Response from Provider:	1 (a) All classroom furniture, play materials and equipment are in place and are available to be inspected in situ in the proposed new classroom. This room will be laid out in advance of notification of visit or inspection. 1 (b) Adequate facilities for the proposed additional preschool children to rest during the day in the proposed new classroom are in place and available for immediate inspection.
Summary Comment:	1(a)(b) The registered provider's response was verified on inspection on 29 October 2025. There are low level tables chairs and open shelving with a variety of play materials available to the children. There are two child sized couches and soft mats and furnishings for children to rest. The requirement has been met.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

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>The requirements have been met.</p> <p>Parents provide a packed lunch for children attending the service, which is stored in a fridge in the room to prevent spoiling of perishable foods.</p> <p>The service deputy person in charge stated that alternative snacks are available if required.</p> <p>Those children already attending the service had their own water bottles available to them in their care rooms.</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 external environment and doors are secure.</p> <p>The service has an infection control policy in place to guide practice and prevent the spread of infection.</p> <p>There is provision for the appropriate storage and disposal of waste in the sanitary areas and other care rooms.</p> <p>Cleaning schedules are in place in the service and cleaning materials are stored out of reach of children.</p> <p>Fire exits are unobstructed.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>There was no provision for the appropriate storage and disposal of waste in the proposed additional room.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>Provision for the appropriate storage and disposal of waste in the proposed new classroom are in place and available for inspection.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The registered provider's response was verified on inspection on 29 October 2025.</p> <p>Pedal operated lidded bins are in place in the room.</p> <p>The requirement has been 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
 - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:

- (1) **The requirement has been met.** Four staff members hold in date First Aid Responder Training certificates.
- (2) Suitably equipped first aid boxes are provided and stored in the current care rooms. There are additional first aid packs for bringing to the outdoor areas.

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) Fire drills are carried out within the service on a monthly basis, evidenced by a record of same.
- (b) There is a record available relating to the number type and maintenance of fire fighting equipment and for the fire detection and alarm system carried out on 2.10.2025.
- (4) The notices of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed conspicuously throughout the buildings

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.**
- Evidence that insurance is in place for the proposed number of children and type of service was observed.

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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 proposed additional care room is located within the main building in a community centre. The registered provider confirmed that the premises is of a sound and stable structure.

(b) The registered provider has taken appropriate measures to safeguard the premises. The external door was locked to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving unsupervised.

(c) The care room was adequately lit and ventilated. The room is lit by artificial and natural lighting provided by a window. The window provides ventilation. The proposed additional care room will be heated by thermostatically controlled wall mounted radiators. The heating system was not on during the inspection. The room temperature was 17.9°C. The heating system was last serviced in September 2025.

(d) The premises and surrounding environment appeared clean and maintained as required. The registered provider stated that the community centre staff clean the premises, and that the staff of the early years' service have a cleaning schedule in place which will be maintained in the care rooms and sanitary areas.

Cleaning material is available to the staff and stored in the storeroom.

(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities are provided. There are six toilets and six wash hand basins available in the sanitary area adjacent to care rooms 1,2 and 3 for the children's use. Two of these were added since the last inspection in the service.

There are two toilets and wash hand basins available for staff in the main building and two toilets available to the children in the proposed room (4) with two wash hand basins.

There are two nappy changing areas in the sanitary area adjacent to care rooms 1,2,3.

All sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped with toilet paper, liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated bins.

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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:

(3) The requirement has been met.