

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2023DY002
-------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	First Steps Academy
-------------------------	---------------------

Address of Service:	Churchwell Gardens Belmayne Dublin 13 D13 HXR8
----------------------------	---

Email Address:	churchwell@firststepsacademy.ie
-----------------------	---------------------------------

Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Shirley Flannery
--	------------------

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Drop-In	
	Sessional	✓	Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed service type:	Full Day Care
Proposed Number of Children:	120
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Full day care 101 children Age range 1-6 years Operating hours 8.30am to 5.30pm
Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 101 Children.

Dates of Inspection:	1	8	0	7	2	0	2	3
	1	7	0	8	2	0	2	3

Inspection Undertaken by:	T. Nelson and Á. Dunne
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
--	---

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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 101 Children.
Date of Registration:	23 rd August 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	First Steps Academy proposes to provide full day care, part-time and sessional care to children aged from 1 to 6 years. The service proposes to operate from Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm and proposes to offer two ECCE programme sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.
Premises	The proposed childcare service is located on the ground floor of a residential complex in Dublin 13. The first floor of the unit is currently not in use. Five care rooms are proposed, to include: Full day care rooms Boo Boo Bears (1-2 years), Snuggle Bears (2-3 years) and Cub Bears (3-5 years); and Teddy Bears and Buddy Bears (2 years 8 months-6 years) both providing sessional care. Sanitary facilities, nappy changing facilities and a cot room are located off the care rooms, and there is an office, a laundry room, storage facilities and kitchen. Staff sanitary facilities are located on this floor, with an additional staff toilet available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear off the premises, accessible from Boo Boo and Snuggle Bear Rooms.
Staffing	The service proposes to employ up to 17 staff; 15 to work directly with the children, the person in charge and a deputy person in charge.
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. 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, a director of the company and the person in charge who were present on the day of the inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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 proposed service has a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise.

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 they would ensure that an adequate number of adults will be working directly with the proposed children who will attend 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 proposed care rooms are laid out in defined areas of interest including home corners, construction areas, creative play areas and library areas. There is an adequate supply of toys and resources available. Equipment and toys are easily accessible and visible to the children on open low-level shelving.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

	<p>(1)(b) Soft matting and cushions are available in the care rooms to allow children to take a break from activities and rest. The cot room is located off Boo Boo Bears Room, and there is access to 15 standard cots. There are 15 sleep mats available for the children which can be laid out in the Snuggle Bears Room.</p> <p>There is an adequate supply of bed linen and cellular blankets available.</p> <p>(2)(a) An outdoor play area is available to the rear of the service, which is fully enclosed and covered in artificial grass. The area is equipped with a playhouse, small slide, tunnel, water play table, and storage containers with footballs and construction toys.</p> <p>The pillars are cushioned to protect the children, and the utility shed is partitioned off with fencing.</p>
--	---

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.

A healthy eating policy is available. The children attending the sessional service will bring their own snack. For the children attending on a full-time basis, it is proposed that the service will provide a hot meal on a daily basis, which is prepared by an external catering company and reheated in the service kitchen. The service proposes to provide breakfast, and regular and adequate snacks, meals and drinks throughout the day.

A fridge is available for the storage of perishable foods.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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 requirement has been partially met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emergency exits are unobstructed. • The entrance is secured and is managed by a camera and face recognition system which is monitored by staff. • Door handles are up high out of reach to children, leaving the kitchen and storage facilities inaccessible to children. • Radiators are up high out of reach to the children. • The furniture in use is suitable for the age and stage of the proposed age groups of the children in the rooms. • Liquid soap, dispensed paper towels and thermostatically controlled warm water is available is all sinks used by the staff and children. • Cleaning schedules are in place and the rooms were visually clean on the day of the inspection.
Requirement not met:	<p>The sleep mats are stored uncovered in the utility room. This poses a risk of cross contamination.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>The proposed registered provider has moved the sleep mats into the Snuggle Bears care room.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>Requirement has been met.</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid	
<p>(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.</p> <p>(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—</p> <p>(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and</p> <p>(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times</p>	
Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1) Evidence is available that one person trained to First Aid Response Level is available to the children attending the service. The registered provider proposes another staff member is to be trained in First Aid response Level.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is readily available.</p>

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures	
<p>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—</p> <p>(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and</p> <p>(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.</p>	
Requirement met:	<p>This requirement is partially met.</p> <p>(1)(a) There is a template available to record fire drills that take place in the service.</p> <p>(b) A written record is available to demonstrate the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises were maintained on the 10th July 2023.</p> <p>(4) There is a notice displayed in each of the care rooms of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(4) A fire assembly notice was not visible outside of the service to enable staff and children to identify the fire assembly point.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>A fire assembly sign has been placed at the fire assembly point for the service, at the basketball court entrance.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement had been met.

Insurance received for a maximum 101 children in a full day care service valid from 28th August 2023 to 27th March 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 partially met.

(a) The premises appears to be of a sound and stable structure.

(b) The entrance door to the service is secured adequately to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons from gaining access.

(c)

- Windows provide natural lighting to all the care rooms. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights are fitted with protective covers and recessed into the ceiling.
- Heating is provided through wall mounted radiators. These are up high out of reach to the children. The temperature of the care rooms on the day of the inspection was 20°C.
- The care rooms and sanitary rooms are fitted with mechanical ventilation systems.

(d) The rooms are clean, maintained and in good repair. There is a cleaning schedule available to ensure regular cleaning of the rooms.

(e) There is adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation for staff.

Requirement not met:

(e) The premises is not equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

1. The sanitary facilities available were not sufficient to provide for the proposed number of children who will attend as outlined below:

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Sanitary Facilities	Number of Nappy changing units	Number of Toilets	Number of Wash hand basins (WHB)	Number of children this can accommodate
Nappy changing Rooms	2	0	2	22
Childrens sanitary accommodation	0	4	4	44
Total	2	4	6	66

2. There is no door to the nappy changing rooms in Snuggle Bears Room and in Boo Boo Bears Room. This does not provide for privacy for the children and is an infection control risk.

Response from Provider:

- 1.The proposed registered provider has installed three additional toilets, one additional nappy changing area and four additional wash hand basins.
2. Doors are now fitted to the nappy changing rooms in Snuggle Bears room and in Boo Boo Bears Room.

Summary Comment:

The requirement has been met.

Following a second follow up fit for purpose inspection on the 17th August 2023 there are sufficient and adequate sanitary facilities for the proposed service..

There are now sufficient sanitary facilities to accommodate the 101 children.

Sanitary Facilities	Number of Nappy changing units	Number of Toilets	Number of Wash hand basins (WHB)	Number of children this can accommodate
Nappy changing Rooms	3	0	3	33
Childrens sanitary accommodation	0	7	7	77

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:

The requirement is met.

(1) There is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement of the up to 99 children to attend the proposed pre-school service. A total of 215m² is available.

(2) The amount of clear floor space available is demonstrated in the table below:

Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5
Boo Boo Bears	Snuggle Bears	Cub Bears	Teddy Bears	Buddy Bears
34.8 m ²	35.5 m ²	45.6 m ²	46.13 m ²	48.5 m ²
Following works:				
39.5m ²				

(4) The measurements recorded in (2) are for 99 proposed children attending on a sessional, part time and full day care basis. However due to regulation 29, this figure is currently capped at 66 children.

Following a second follow up fit for purpose inspection on the 17th August 2023 the proposed registered provider completed works adding additional sanitary facilities and altering the layout of Boo Boo Bears Room, increasing the size of the room. The measurements recorded in (2) are for 101 proposed children attending on a sessional, part time and full day care basis.