

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2023KE004

Name of Service: The Learning Tree

Address of Service: Willouise Estate, Sallins, Co. Kildare. W91TXF6

Email Address: thelearningtree.sallins@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Paulina Zurawska-Cina

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 Care

Proposed Number of Children: 29

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
29 children, aged 1-6 years of age, can be accommodated at any one time, inclusive of children attending the service on a sessional basis, following measurement of the service on inspection.

Registered service: Registered Full Day Care Service for 29 Children.

Date of Inspection: 0 8 0 8 2 0 2 3

Inspection Undertaken by: F. Maher

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:
Early Years Inspectorate, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre, Child and Family Agency, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas Co. Kildare, W91X38W

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 29 Children.

Date of Registration: 30th 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	The Learning Tree is a private service proposing to operate a full day care service, including a sessional service, catering for 29 children aged 1-6 years old. It proposes to open Monday to Friday from 07.30am-18.00pm for 50 weeks of the year.
Premises	The service proposes to operate from a purpose-built premises located in a private residential housing estate in Sallins Co Kildare. Three pre-school rooms, sanitary facilities, including nappy change facilities, a sleep room, kitchen, office, staff room and an outdoor area are provided.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider will manage and oversee the service, a designated person to deputise as required has been appointed. It is proposed that five childcare staff, including the registered provider will be working in the service. All proposed childcare staff working directly with the pre-school children will hold qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education as recognised 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. 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.

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Acknowledgement	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider who was 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) There is a designated person in charge and a named person is available to deputise as required.
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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:	The requirement has been met. (1) The proposed registered provider has stated that there will be an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service. Four adults are proposed to work directly with the children attending the service to ensure the required adult to child ratio is maintained. The registered provider will be supernumerary and available to oversee the management of the service and provide relief cover as necessary.
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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 pre-school rooms are bright and spacious and have a variety of age-appropriate toys and learning equipment available at an accessible height to facilitate a child-led learning environment. The rooms are thoughtfully planned with clearly defined areas of interest including home corners, construction areas, mark making, small world and comfortable rest areas. A variety of play and learning materials included puzzles, jigsaws, interconnecting manipulative equipment, paint, paper, art and craft materials, animals, blocks, cars, dolls and an assortment of props for the interest areas.

The outdoor play area is suitable; it has an artificial grass surface and resourced with sand and water play, child sized seating and a large retractable canopy fixed to the premises wall is in place to provide shelter during very hot or wet weather to enable the children to play outside all year round.

(b)

There is one sleep room provided with low level beds for children over 2 years old and a cot is available for any child requiring sleep less than 2 years old.

Currently only one cot is required in the service as there are two children less than 2 years old due to commence in the service.

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	<p>As advised by the registered provider, further cots will be available to meet the sleep needs of further children aged less than 2 years old attending, requiring sleep in a cot. Comfortable rest areas with soft furnishings are available in each pre-school room.</p> <p>(2)(a)</p> <p>The proposed service has access to a secure enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the premises. The outdoor play area is enclosed with a high-level metal fence and secured to one side with a high level metal gate. The gate has an electronic securing mechanism in place to prevent a child from leaving unnoticed and to restrict unauthorised access to the service.</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.

A healthy eating policy is in place in the service.

An outside catering company will provide the main hot meals to the service which will be reheated on site. The sample menus available offered varied and nutritionally adequate meals. Parents will be asked to provide the morning snack for their child attending the sessional service, breakfast and other meals and snacks will be provided by the service.

Drinking water is available in the service and will be available at all times for the children.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

General safety

Access to the pre-school service will be electronically controlled by staff at the main entrance to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. There is also an intercom system at the main entrance. There is sufficient storage space in the premises for cleaning materials in a small walk-in utility room and a locked steel cupboard located in the outdoor area houses mops and buckets. The office, kitchen and staff area are inaccessible to children. The toys and play equipment provided are age-appropriate, clean and in good condition and any high resource units are securely anchored to the wall. Detailed daily risk assessment documentation is in place for the indoor and outdoor environments to reduce/action any risk(s) identified.

Fire exits were easily recognisable and not obstructed, and the fire assembly point is conspicuously displayed in the outdoor play area.

Infection control

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted dispensers, are available in the sanitary accommodation for hygienic hand washing and drying. Foot pedal operated bins are located in the sanitary areas and pre-school rooms for the hygienic and safe disposal of used paper hand towel, tissues. Plastic aprons, gloves and foot pedal operated nappy bins are in place in the nappy change areas.

The premises is maintained in a clean and hygienic condition and detailed cleaning schedules are in place for all room environments.

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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)

Current certification in relation to first aid response (FAR) training, is available for the manager and deputy manager that will be working in the service.

(2)(a)

Suitably equipped first aid boxes are available and accessible to children and are stored in conspicuous positions in each pre-school room.

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)

Documentation is available to record monthly fire drills.

(b)

The firefighting equipment has been recently installed and dated 25 July 2023 and the fire/smoke alarm system has been commissioned with supporting documentation dated 03 April 2023.

A service contract is in place.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are clearly displayed throughout the service.

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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. Full insurance received for Full Day Care for 29 children. Valid from 04.09.23 to 27.03.24.
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(a) The proposed premises has been recently built and decorated and visually is in a state of good repair.</p> <p>(b) The entrance/exit door to the premises is electronically secure and will be controlled by staff to prevent unauthorised access to the service and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. The outdoor play area is surrounded by a high-level metal fence and there is a high-level metal gate which is electronically secured preventing unauthorised access to the outdoor play area.</p> <p>(c) The premises benefits from high levels of natural light via large windows in all childcare rooms. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from recessed LED ceiling lights in each pre-school room. Window blinds are in place in the sleep room to support a dimmed environment for the comfort of sleeping children. There are openable windows in each pre-school room and in the sanitary areas to provide natural ventilation. A mechanical extraction/ ventilation system has also been installed for the simultaneous ventilation of the sanitary and nappy changing areas. An integrated air management system provides air-conditioning and/or heat to pre-school room 1 and the adjacent sleep room as required. This system can be regulated by the staff members.</p>
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An air to water pump system provides the heating in the remaining rooms and premises and wall mounted radiators are in place; this can be thermostatically controlled.

(d)

Daily cleaning schedules are in place for all pre-school room environments and sanitary areas and staff members will carry out all cleaning duties.

(e)

The sanitary facilities provided in the service include:

- 4 toilets and 4 wash hand basins designated for children's use.
- 2 nappy changing areas with wash hand basins.
- 1 disability access toilet with hand basin is available for staff use.

Thermostatically controlled hot water was available and did not exceed 43°C.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1), (2)

Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement for 29 pre-school children proposed to attend the service; this is inclusive of children attending the service on a sessional basis, at any one time as demonstrated below,

Room	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3
Clear Floor Space	13m ²	20.3m ²	40m ²