

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2023KE007
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Name of Service:	Elsmore Crèche
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Address of Service:	Elsmore, Naas, Co Kildare W91E8XP
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Email Address:	manager@elsmorecreche.ie
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Tracey Smullen and Claire Doyle
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Car	<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
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Proposed Number of Children:	120
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection	A maximum number of 120 children, 0-6 years of age, proposed by the registered providers, may be accommodated.
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Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 120 Children
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Date of Inspection:	0	1	0	9	2	0	2	3
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Inspection Undertaken by:	F. Maher, T. Duignan
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre Child and Family Agency Ballymore Eustace Road Naas Co. Kildare, W91X38W.
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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 Service for 120 Children
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Date of Registration:	4 th September 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 proposed private childcare facility aims to provide full day care to children 0-6 years of age. The service is proposing to accommodate 120 children. The proposed hours of operation are from 7.30am to 18.00pm for 49 weeks of the year.
Premises	The proposed premises is a purpose-built facility located at ground level in a housing development in a residential estate on the outskirts of Naas Co. Kildare. There are eight care rooms, two cot rooms, a kitchen, staff room, sanitary facilities, storage rooms and an office provided. Seven pre-school rooms will be operational when the service commences, the eighth room, while complete, is not yet resourced to receive children; the registered providers advised this room will not be in use. There is an enclosed outdoor space that wraps around two sides of the premises.
Staffing	The proposed registered providers have appointed a manager for the service and a designated person to deputise as required. It is proposed that twenty childcare staff will commence working in the service along with two chefs and two cleaning staff. 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

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	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 providers, persons in charge and staff 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) 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 providers have stated that there will be an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service. Sixteen adults are proposed to work directly with the children attending the service to ensure the required adult to child ratio is maintained. The manager and deputy manager of the service 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 service comprises of eight pre-school rooms which are bright and spacious. Seven of the pre-school rooms have been suitably laid out to cater for the needs of children who will be attending in each room. Each room have a variety of age-appropriate toys and learning equipment available at an accessible height to facilitate a child-led learning environment. There are clearly defined areas of interest including home corners, construction areas, dress up, sensory play tables, small world and rest areas with libraries. A variety of play and learning materials included puzzles, jigsaws, interconnecting manipulative equipment, blocks, cars, dolls and an assortment of props for the interest areas.

(b)

Two cot rooms with fifteen standard cots are provided for any children less than two years of age requiring sleep in a cot. Stackable beds are available for children over 2 years of age requiring a period of sleep when attending on a full day or part time basis. Suitable rest areas are provided in each room and a comfortable armchair is provided in the baby room to enable staff members to sit comfortably to nurse/nurture the younger children.

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	<p>(2)(a)</p> <p>There is an enclosed outdoor area provided on the premises. The area which has an artificial grass covering the ground surface, had suitable play equipment available. The area is enclosed by a high-level metal fence on top of a part brick wall and there is a high-level wooden gate to one side. The gate has a keypad securing mechanism in place on the inside to prevent a child from leaving unnoticed and to restrict unauthorised access. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area.</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 registered providers have employed two chefs and there are facilities available for the provision of adequate food and drink for children. A four-week menu plan is available to demonstrate that varied nutritious food will be provided. Drinking water is available in the service and will be available at all times for the children.

The designated person in charge was advised to notify the relevant health authority regarding the preparation of food on the premises.

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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.

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. The entrance for children attending the sessional service is located to the side of the premises and is electronically controlled with a keypad entry system. The internal door from the reception area into the main corridor where the pre-school rooms are located, has a keypad system in place. High level hand activated sensors release the doors to exit the service including the door to the outside play area. The outdoor area is suitably secured to the side with a high-level wooden gate with a keypad locking mechanism on the inside. All windows have been fitted with fire-safe restrictors and visibility stickers are in place on all full-length glass doors and windows. All cupboards are fitted with safety catches.

There is sufficient storage space in the premises for cleaning materials in a utility room located on the main corridor and there is sufficient storage space in various storage rooms throughout the premises, these rooms are secure to prevent a child accessing these areas. All emergency exits are clear.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted dispensers, are available in the sanitary and nappy changing 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 and tissues. Plastic aprons, gloves and non-touch operated nappy bins are in place in the nappy change areas.

Refrigerators are provided in the Baby room and younger care rooms for the storage of infant formula and any perishable food items.

A pest control contract is in place for the premises.

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 two further staff members that will be working in the service.

(2)(a)(b)

Suitably equipped first aid boxes are available and accessible to children at all times; these are stored in conspicuous positions 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 firefighting 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 August 2023 and the fire/smoke alarm system has been commissioned with supporting documentation dated 22 August 2023; a service contract is in place.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed conspicuously and the fire assembly point was identified.

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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 was submitted to the Registration Office, valid from 03/08/23 to 27/03/24 covering 120 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 proposed premises has been recently built and decorated and visually is in a state of good repair.

(b)

The entrance/exit doors to the premises are 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 part brick wall and high-level metal fencing. There is a high-level wooden gate to the side of the premises which is secured with a keypad locking mechanism on the inside preventing unauthorised access to the outdoor play area.

(c)

The premises benefits from high levels of natural light via large floor length or higher-level windows in all childcare rooms. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from recessed LED ceiling lights in each pre-school room. Window coverings are in place in the sleep rooms to support a dimmed environment for the comfort of sleeping children.

There are openable windows in each pre-school room and a mechanical extraction/ventilation system has been installed for the simultaneous ventilation of the sanitary and nappy changing areas.

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An integrated air management system provides air-conditioning and/or heat to all pre-school rooms and both sleep rooms. This system can be regulated by the staff members from a central control panel in the office. Environmental room temperatures were maintained between the recommended 18-22°C Celcius and between 16-20°C Celcius in both sleep rooms.

(d)

Daily cleaning schedules are in place for all pre-school room environments and sanitary areas. Cleaning staff have been employed for cleaning duties.

(e)

The sanitary facilities provided in the service include:

- 14 toilets and 14 wash hand basins designated for children's use.
- 6 nappy changing areas with 6 wash hand basins.
- 3 toilets and 3 wash hand basins are provided for adult's use.
- 1 disability access toilet with 1 wash hand basin is located in the main toilet block in the service.

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

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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.
- (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 has been met.

(1),(2)

Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated below:

Room	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Clear floor space	39m ²	37m ²	44m ²	26m ²	36m ²	32m ²	47m ²
Proposed age range	1-2yrs	1-2yrs	2-3yrs 3-6yrs	0-1yr	1-2yrs	1-2yrs	2-6yrs sessional
Maximum number of children	14 (FDC)	13 (FDC)	19 2-6yrs (FDC) 24 (Sessional)	7 (FDC)	13 (FDC)	11 (FDC)	26 (Sessional)

Room

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Clear floor space	35m ²
Proposed age range	1-2yrs
Maximum number of children	13(FDC)

(4)(a)(b)

The required floor space for 120 children in the proposed age ranges attending the service at any one time is met and is inclusive of children that may attend during the operation of concurrent sessional services.