

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2023KK002

Name of Service: Little Stars Preschool Piltown

Address of Service: Iverk Showgrounds, Piltown, Co Kilkenny. E32PD81.

Email Address: Demelzacronin8@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Demelza Cronin

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

Proposed service type: Sessional

Proposed Number of Children: 11

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
The inspector recommends this service is registered to provide a sessional service to 11 children aged from 2 to 6 years of age from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Registered service: Registered Sessional Service for 11 Children

Date of Inspection: 0 2 1 0 2 0 2 3

Inspection Undertaken by: E Mc Garry

Title: Early years Inspector.

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:
Tusla Child and Family Agency,
Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital,
Ferrybank, Wexford

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Sessional Service for 11 Children

Date of Registration: 5th October 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 registered provider is applying to operate a childcare service from a premises situated on the grounds of the Iverk showgrounds outside Piltown in Kilkenny. The proposed registered provider has applied to provide a sessional service to 11 children from 2 to 6 years of age from 9.30am to 12.30pm.
Premises	The premises was previously registered as a childcare facility. The premises consists of two early years rooms, Classroom 1 and Playroom 2. There are toilets for the children, a staff toilet, and an entrance hallway. The children have access to the playgrounds which surround the service. The proposed registered provider intends to operate the service as a single-handed provider.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider is qualified in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 6 on the national qualification's framework.
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 four 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 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.</p>
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:

(1)(a)

The proposed registered provider will be the person in charge.

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)(b)

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 proposed registered provider is aware of the regulation in relation to staffing levels and proposes to ensure that an adequate number of staff work directly with the early years children.

(8)(b)

The registered provider proposes to operate the service single-handedly. There is a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the proposed registered provider in operating the service. The person is available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

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.
- (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:

(1)(a)

The service has suitable and adequate facilities for both indoor and outdoor play. The inspector observed that both early years rooms were well equipped and resourced for the play and stimulation of the children. The service had been developed with clear identifiable areas of interest appropriate to the age and stages of the children.

For example, in the playroom 2 there was a large dolls house which was equipped with miniature furniture for the children to play with. In classroom 1 there was a library with books for the children to read. There were games and wooden bricks also for children to play with. The room was observed to be well resourced with accessible, age appropriate, play materials and equipment. There were child sized tables and appropriate child sized seating provided in each of the early years rooms.

(b)

The inspector observed that there was a cosy rest area available for children to rest during the day. This area was situated in the playroom 2 and consisted of comfortable child sized couches and soft floor mats.

(2)(a)

The children had access to the playing pitches where the service is situated.

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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 service had a healthy eating policy. Parents will provide all food for the children attending the service. There is a fridge in the hallway to store the food provided by the parents.

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:

Infection Control.

Drinking water from the public water supply was readily available and accessible to the children and staff.

Refrigeration facilities were provided for the purpose of storing children's perishable lunch items.

Liquid hand soap and paper towels were provided in both the children's toilets. Adult level hand sanitiser gel dispensers were installed at the entrance door and within the rooms.

The service appeared clean with no obvious maintenance required.

General Safety.

The entrance to the service was appropriately secured. The exit doors were clearly lit and unobstructed. Door keys were readily available to the staff in the service.

There was an adequate health and safety policy in place in the service.

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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)
- Evidence was available to demonstrate that the proposed registered provider was trained in first aid for children.
- (2)(a)
- A suitably equipped first aid box was available on the premises, was safely stored and easily accessible at all times.

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:

- (1)(a)
- The inspector observed that a record was available for the recording of monthly fire drills.
- (b)
- A maintenance record was available for the fire-fighting equipment which was last serviced in October 2023. The smoke alarms were last serviced in May 2023.
- (4)
- A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was observed to be displayed just inside the entrance door.

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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 current insurance certificate was available to view and indicates cover for 22 children to attend the service. The insurance certificate expires on the 27 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:

- (a)
The registered provider stated that there were no issues identified in relation to the building structure.
- (b)
The entrance door to the service was secured.
- (c)
The classrooms were naturally lit with large windows. Natural light was supplemented with artificial lighting systems, encased in protective covers.
The windows of the classroom could be opened to provide natural ventilation. The heating system to the service was by electric storage heaters. The temperature of the service was maintained between 18°C and 20°C during the period of inspection.
- (d)
The service was observed to be clean and well maintained.
- (e)
There were sufficient designated toilet units and hand washing facilities available for both the proposed number of children attending the service and for the staff working in the service. There was two toilets and two wash hand basins designated for the children’s use. There was a designated staff toilet and wash hand basin. The inspector

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observed that there was liquid hand soap and paper towels provided in all of the sanitary areas. The water temperature was regulated and recorded at 30°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 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.

Requirement met:

(1)

Room Name	Age Range	Type of Service	Floor Space Available	Number of Children space could accommodate
Classroom 1	2-6 years	Sessional	20.72 sqm	11
Playroom 2	2-6 years	Sessional	20.72 sqm	11

(2)

There was adequate clear floor space available in both rooms for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age, therefore the service was compliant with the minimum space requirements for sessional service.