

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2023LH001							
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Footprints Preschool							
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Saint Oliver Plunkett National School, Sandy Lane, Blackrock, Co. Louth A91 AK57							
<b>Email Address:</b>	sineadauld@gmail.com							
<b>Name of Proposed Registered Provider:</b>	Sinead Auld							
<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Proposed service type:</b>	To operate a new sessional early years service.							
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	To accommodate 22 children.							
<b>Outcome of the F06 Inspection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The space available will permit a maximum number of 20 pre-school children to be accommodated in the service as per the findings of Regulation 30.</li> <li>To operate from 8.45am to 11.45am each weekday for 38 weeks each year.</li> <li>To cater for children aged 3 to 6 years on a sessional basis.</li> </ul>							
<b>Registered service:</b>	Registered Sessional Service for 20 children.							
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	5	0	8	2	0	2	3
<b>Inspection Undertaken by:</b>	S Taaffe							
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector							
<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airsi Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.							

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### Rationale for Inspection

### Proposed New Service

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Sessional Service for 20 children.
<b>Date of Registration:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	The applicant proposes to privately operate Footprints Preschool as a sessional service from 8.45am – 11.45am from Monday to Friday for 38 weeks each year. Although the space available will permit a maximum number of 20 children to be accommodated in the service as per the findings of Regulation 30, the applicant proposes to cater for a maximum number of 15 pre-school children from 3 to 6 years of age.
<b>Premises</b>	The proposed new service would be located in a ground floor classroom in a primary school which is located in the coastal village of Blackrock in Co. Louth and which first opened in 1899. The applicant operates a separate early years and school aged service in a community centre located in close proximity to this premises.
<b>Staffing</b>	The applicant proposes to employ 2 staff members to work directly with the pre-school children attending the service which adequately meets the staffing requirement based on number of children currently seeking enrolment. The applicant would be available to provide relief cover in the event of unexpected staff absences.
<b>Methodology</b>	<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>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the applicant and the proposed person in charge 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:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met. The applicant has employed two staff members who would work in the proposed service, one of whom would be the designated person in charge on a daily basis.

### 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 applicant and the person proposed to be in charge are aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 and would ensure that an adequate number of adults would at all times work directly with the pre-school children in the proposed service. Two staff members would be present and working directly with the children in the proposed service on a daily basis, ensuring the minimum adult to child ratios are maintained at all times.

### 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:

(1)(a) The proposed service would be operated from one room with adequate clear floor space for the children to play indoors. The room had suitable play equipment and a number of suitably resourced clearly defined interest areas including a home corner, construction area, arts and crafts area and library. The play materials were presented in open-fronted low-level shelving units which would be accessible to pre-

	<p>school children. A large wall-mounted interactive electronic screen was in place on a wall in the proposed pre-school room. The inspector was informed that this device was provided by the primary school and it would not be used when pre-school children were in attendance.</p> <p>(b) Suitable rest facilities were available in the proposed service. There was a comfortable and suitable area with seating, a soft floor mat and cushions provided for a child to rest or take a break from activities if required.</p> <p>(2)(a) Pre-school children would have access from 9.00am to 10.30am on a daily basis to two outdoor play areas provided on the premises. The outdoor play areas for the proposed service are accessed through the designated entrance doorway leading from the corridor adjoining the pre-school room. Fixed fencing is in place along the front of the main designated outdoor play space which runs along the gable end of the building whilst portable interlocking fencing is in place to secure the rear of the space, thereby enclosing a section and limiting the pre-school children’s access to the wider spacious outdoor area to the rear, side and front of the primary school premises. The proposed service would also have access to another enclosed area in the school’s play area to the front of the premises, partially shaded by a mature tree, with low level wooden benches and a fixed blackboard provided. Outdoor play equipment including ride-on toys, push-along toys, balls and goalposts are provided to support outdoor play opportunities in both spaces for pre-school children attending the proposed service.</p>
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Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services	
Regulation 22 – Food and Drink	
<i>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.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	The applicant proposes to accommodate children on a sessional basis, with parents providing snacks from home supported by the service’s healthy eating policy.

Part VI – Safety	
Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child	
<i>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.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been partially met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the proposed service. Instead of entering the premises through the main entrance to the primary school, a door on the gable end of the premises leading into the corridor adjoining the pre-school room would be designated for use by the proposed early years service during its hours of operation. This would ensure that staff members could safely facilitate each pre-school child’s entry to and</li> </ul>

	<p>departure from the proposed early years service in a controlled manner in a less-congested environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were means available to fully enclose and secure the outdoor play area through the provision of both fixed and portable interlocking fencing, ensuring that the children could not leave the designated outdoor play areas unsupervised and preventing unauthorised access to the areas.</li> <li>• Liquid soap, electric hand dryers and paper hand towels were provided to support effective hand hygiene in the sanitary accommodation.</li> <li>• A fridge was available on the premises for the storage of perishable food items.</li> <li>• Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children proposed to attend the service.</li> <li>• No trailing flexes, cables or electric items would be accessible to pre-school children.</li> <li>• Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children on a high shelf in the proposed pre-school room.</li> <li>• Radiators and accompanying piping in the proposed pre-school room were not covered but the inspector was informed that they were thermostatically controlled to ensure that the temperature did not exceed the safe surface temperature of 50°C.</li> </ul>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p>The following risk was identified that could impact on the health, safety and welfare of the children attending the service:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The hot water supply provided at the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation was found to be 44.3°C which exceeded the maximum safe water temperature of 43°C.</li> </ol>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<p>The applicant submitted documentation confirming that the hot water supply to the taps in the sanitary accommodation assigned to the proposed service and the sink in the classroom designated have been thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C.</p>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p>

### 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*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>(1) The applicant and the two staff members held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training, ensuring that a person with FAR training would be immediately available at all times to children attending the proposed service.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available on the premises which was stored conspicuously on a high shelf in the pre-school room.</p>
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# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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### 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) The applicant had a template available which would be used to record fire drills that would take place on a monthly basis in the service.  
(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke detection system of the premises. The fire fighting equipment was last serviced in April 2023 and the fire detection system was serviced on 25/04/2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the pre-school room on the premises.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

Full insurance received for Sessional Service catering for max. 22 children. Valid from 28.08.23 to 27.08.24.

### 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 service is proposed to be located in a room located in a primary school which appeared to be of sound and stable structure.  
(b) The premises was safe and secure.  
(c) The premises was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.  
The premises was heated by means of central heating in addition to passive heating from the two large south-facing windows in the proposed pre-school room.

Ventilation in the proposed pre-school room was provided by means of open-able windows and trickle vents. Mechanical ventilation was provided in the sanitary accommodation designated for use by the proposed service.

(d) The premises was found to be in a clean condition and in good repair.

(e) Suitable and adequate sanitary accommodation was provided with 2 separate toilets and 2 wash-hand basins provided off the corridor adjoining the proposed pre-school room. This sanitary area would be designated solely for use by the pre-school children when the proposed service would be in operation. Early years staff would have access to the staff toilets in the building when necessary. There are no nappy changing facilities provided in the service as the policy of the early years service would be that all children must be toilet trained prior to commencement.

### 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.*

#### Requirement met:

(1) The clear floor space in the pre-school room measures 36.95 square metres which provides adequate space for the safety, play and movement of 20 children aged 2½ to 6 years attending the proposed service on a sessional basis whilst availing of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.