

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Tusla I.D: | TU2023LH002 | | | | | | | |
| Name of Service | Smart Start Playschool | | | | | | | |
| Address of Service: | Ballymakenny Business Park, Ballymakenny Road, Drogheda, Co Louth. | | | | | | | |
| Email Address: | 43smartstart@gmail.com | | | | | | | |
| Name of Registered Provider: | Denise Lynch | | | | | | | |
| Type of Proposed Service: | Full Day Care | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Part-Time | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sessional | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| | Drop-In | <input type="checkbox"/> | Childminding | <input type="checkbox"/> | Temporary | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Proposed change: | Proposed change to registration to accommodate children aged 1 – 6 years. | | | | | | | |
| Proposed Number of Children: | 65 (no change) | | | | | | | |
| Recommended Change Following Inspection: | The application to change age range of care provision from 2 to 6 years to 1 – 6 years can be approved. | | | | | | | |
| Registered change: | Change in age profile of children from 2 – 6 years to 1 – 6 years | | | | | | | |
| Date of Inspection: | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Inspection undertaken by: | S. Cully | | | | | | | |
| Title: | Early Years Inspector | | | | | | | |
| Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: | Early Years Inspectorate | | | | | | | |
| | 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, | | | | | | | |
| | Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6. | | | | | | | |

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Registration Status: | Registered Full Day Care Service for 65 Children |
| Date of Registration | 26 th January 2024 |

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



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 | Smart Start Playschool is a privately owned childcare service in operation since January 2024 and currently registered to provide full day-care, part-time care and sessional preschool to children between the ages of 2 – 6 years. A Fit For Purpose inspection for the initial registration approval was carried out 19/12/2023. The registered provider is proposing to change the registration details to accommodate children between the ages of 1 – 6 years. The service provides a play-based curriculum inspired by the Curiosity Approach. Smart Start Playschool currently operates Monday to Fridays from 7.30 am to 6.00 pm, and to participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme for 38 weeks of the year. The ECCE preschool sessions available to eligible children are from 8.30 am – 11.30 am and 12.00 pm - 3.00 pm. |
| Premises | The full day care service is conducted from a refurbished 2 storey building located in a developing area of Drogheda Co. Louth. There are 4 care rooms on the premises currently named Room 1, 2, 3 and 4. There are sanitary accommodations for adults and children on the ground floor, and sanitary accommodations for children on the first floor. On the ground floor, there is also a sleep room, kitchen and storage room. On the first floor there is also an office/staff room. There are additional rooms on the premises that are not currently in use. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is provided to the side of the premises. There is also parking available to the front and rear of the building. |
| Staffing | The registered provider is available to work directly with the children when required. There is a designated person in charge who is responsible for the daily operation of the service. There are currently 6 additional staff members employed to work with the children currently attending, 1 office administrator and 1 chef. |
| 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 the following 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 registering the change in circumstance. 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> |
| Acknowledgements | The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection. |

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.

There is a designated person in charge and a named person is available to deputise as required.

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) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6. The registered provider has ensured that an adequate number of adults would be available at all times to work directly with the children in the service.

(8)(a) The person in charge ensures that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times when the service is in operation.

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—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises 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.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Requirement met: | <p>(1)(a) The requirement has been met. It is proposed that children aged 1 – 2.5 years would be cared for in Room 1. Room 1 is well-resourced with equipment and materials suitable for this age range and the proposed number of children that can be accommodated. There are interest areas to engage children in play activities such as the home corner, reading area, construction area and tabletop activities. Materials are stored on low level shelving and are easily accessible to children. Materials for sensory play are also available. The table and chairs in the room are low to the ground and suitable for the age group.</p> <p>(1)(b) There is a sleep room on the ground floor that currently consists of 2 cots for the proposed 4 children aged under 24 months due to attend following approval of change. The registered provider is aware of their responsibility to provide the required number of suitable sleeping facilities for children as provision of care to children under 24 months increases. For children over 24 months, a sufficient number of blue stackable beds are available as required. The service provides individual bed linen that is laundered and stored on the premises. For older age groups, areas for rest are available in the care room through the provision of sofas and cosy areas.</p> <p>(2)(b) There is a spacious and fully enclosed outdoor area to the side of the building. This outdoor space is divided into 4 individual enclosed play areas with 2 play areas currently open and accessible to the preschool children. One area is fully covered with an impact absorbing surface and has equipment and materials available for climbing and balancing such as a metal climbing frame, a large tree branch, wooden stumps and plastic steps. The second area is paved with concrete and partially covered with an impact absorbing surface. In this area there are workbenches, outdoor kitchens, a playhouse, covered sand/water trays and child-sized seating areas. The registered provider has plans to develop the other outdoor areas as capacity increases.</p> |
|-------------------------|--|

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

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: | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The service provides all snacks and meals for children attending the service. Hot meals and snacks are prepared onsite by a trained member of staff. Children’s individual dietary requirements are catered for. A 2 week menu of breakfast, snacks and meals is available and potable drinking is available to the children throughout the day.</p> |
|-------------------------|--|

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.

The registered provider has implemented appropriate measures in the service to ensure the safety of the children.

- The external doors, windows and side gate are appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- The windows in the care rooms are fitted with restrictive opening devices.
- The furniture and materials in the care rooms were in good and hygienic condition.
- Thermostatically controlled running water was available at the wash hand basins in the service along with soap and paper hand towels.
- Single use disposable aprons and gloves are available at the nappy changing unit.
- Cleaning agents are stored out of reach of children.
- Suitable handrails are provided on the staircases. The staircases are also adequately lit, and the floor covering is in good condition.
- The heating system for the service was thermostatically controlled to prevent radiators from exceeding the maximum surface temperature of 50°C.
- Sleep check records are available to document the duration of children’s sleep and 10 minute observations of children’s colour, position and breathing patterns.

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) The registered provider has ensured that a person trained in first aid for children is at all times immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)(b) First aid boxes are suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions in the service. A first aid box is available on the ground floor and the first floor.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) A template is available to record fire drills that will take place on a monthly basis. The first fire drill is due to take place before the end of the month.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The firefighting equipment was last serviced November 2023 and the fire detection and alarm system was last serviced 07/09/2023.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire and evacuation maps were available and displayed in each care room.

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.

The registered provider provided documentation to evidence that there was adequate insurance in place for up to 66 pre-school children attending at any one time evidenced in an in-date insurance certificate valid from 29/12/2023 to 27/03/2024.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 premises appears to be in good condition throughout and of sound structure.

(b) The premises appears safe and is found to be appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years service.

(c)

Lighting:

The premises is adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating:

The premises is heated by means of gas fired central heating.

Ventilation:

Ventilation in the care rooms is provided by means of openable windows, wall vents and trickle vents.

The sanitary accommodations for children on the ground floor are ventilated by means of openable windows. Sanitary accommodations for adults on the ground floor and children on the first floor lead on to a ventilated lobby.

(e) Adequate sanitary accommodation is provided. There is a wash hand basin in each care room.

Four toilets, one of which is wheelchair accessible, and four wash hand basins are provided in the children’s sanitary accommodation on the ground floor along with one nappy changing unit. On the first floor, three toilets and three wash hand basins are available for children in the sanitary accommodation.

Two toilets, one of which is wheelchair accessible, and two wash hand basins are provided for staff on the ground floor.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement for a maximum number of 11 children aged 1 – 2.5 years in Room 1. There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement for a maximum number of 65 preschool children in the service at any one time.

(2) The registered provider and service manager are aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7.

- The clear floor space in Room 1 measured 32.29 square metres.
- The clear floor space in Room 2 measured 29.181 square metres.
- The clear floor space in Room 3 measured 51.20 square metres.
- The clear floor space in Room 4 measured 30.33 square metres.