

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

**Tusla I.D:** TU2023LS001

**Name of Service:** Silly Billies Playschool

**Address of Service:** Killimy, Emo,  
Portlaoise,  
Co. Laois

**Email Address:** [sillybilliesplayschool@gmail.com](mailto:sillybilliesplayschool@gmail.com)

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Bernadette Mc Loughlin

<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"/>
	<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed service type:** Sessional Service

**Proposed Number of Children:** 22

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection:** Proposed registration as sessional service to cater for up to 22 preschool children aged 2 years to 6 years.

**Registered service:** Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	1	0	7	2	0	2	3
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**Inspection Undertaken by:** D. Molloy.

**Title:** Early Years Inspector.

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore,  
Co. Offaly

<b>Rationale for Inspection</b>
<b>Proposed New Service</b>

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children

**Date of Registration:** 28<sup>th</sup> July 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	It is proposed that this service will operate as a sessional service in the village of Emo in rural Co. Laois. It will be privately operated by the proposed registered provider. This proposed service is located in a premises previously used as an early years' service up until May 2023. It is proposed to cater for up to 22 preschool children aged from 2 years to 6 years. The proposed hours of operation are from 09.00-12.00 daily. The service proposes to offer early childhood care and education and to operate the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE).
<b>Premises</b>	It is proposed to operate this service from a within a converted old national school in the village of Emo. The proposed service will comprise of an entrance hall/lobby, one playroom, three toilets and wash hand basins are provided for children's use and another toilet is available for staff use. A kitchenette /cloakroom and a walk-in storage room is also provided.
<b>Staffing</b>	It is proposed that the service will be operated by the designated person in charge and one other staff member will be on site to work directly with the preschool children. The qualifications of the proposed staff members in Early Childhood Care and Education are at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
<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 two 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 the proposed registered provider are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to the registering application. The Inspectorate reserves</p>

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	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.
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider who facilitated 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:**

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The proposed service had a designated person in charge and a named person 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.*

**Requirement met:**

(1)

This requirement has been met.

An adequate number of adults were proposed to work directly with the children in the service. The required adult child ratio of 2 adult to 22 children attending on a sessional basis was proposed. Two adults will be working in the service through out the opening hours of the service.

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*

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) The service was equipped with adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and outdoors while in the service.

A wide range, good quality toys and equipment was provided both indoors and outdoors. The playroom was set out in a child centred manner including particular areas of interest and a rest area. A varied selection of developmentally and age-appropriate toys and equipment will be freely accessible to the children from low level shelving. A choice of different toys and equipment including arts and crafts materials, table top equipment, dolls and buggies, dressing up clothes, books in a library area, farm toys and play equipment are available and laid out in a child friendly manner. Special interest areas including a construction corner, home corner and messy play area are in the playroom.

Child sized furniture including low level tables and chairs in bright colours are available .

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The proposed outdoor facility is equipped with a good selection of outdoor toys and equipment including outdoor kitchens, climbing equipment ,bikes and trike's and push along push along toys.

(b) Adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day. A cosy rest area is provided at the end wall with is supplied with soft seating and soft floor mats.

(2)

(a) A suitable, safe, and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided to the side of the premises is provided. Access could be gained to the play area from the playroom. A fence secures the boundaries of the proposed play area, and the gate is secured from within.

Access to the setting is gained through an entrance gate and, access to the proposed preschool premises is gained through the main door which is controlled by the staff from within the playroom.

### 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:

This requirement been met.

It is proposed that children bring in their own lunches from home in line with healthy eating policy of the proposed service. An upstanding fridge is available in which to store lunches prior to consumption.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

The following measures were in place to safeguard the children’s health, safety, and welfare and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.

A site-specific infection control policy has been devised.

A site-specific risk management policy has been devised which will review indoor and outdoor areas of the service.

Storage will be provided in the playroom and in a locked walk-in cupboard in the hallway. Cleaning chemicals and sprays will be stored out of reach of children.

Cleaning schedules and a cleaning rota will be maintained and will be open for inspection.

The bins in the playroom and sanitary accommodation are foot operated and it is proposed that any waste from the preschool will be recycled by the registered provider.

A pest control system is in place in the proposed 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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times*

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

The proposed person in charge holds an up to date qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) and will be available on the premises throughout the proposed opening hours.

(2)

(a) A fully equipped first aid box is available in an accessible and conspicuous location in the playroom.

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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 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) A recording system will be in place to maintain records of any fire drills as conducted and it was proposed that a monthly fire drill be carried out.

(b) The maintenance record for firefighting equipment in the service was available for inspection which indicated the date of last annual service was September 2022 .

A maintenance record for the smoke alarm system was available showing that the system had been checked annually and date of last check was September 2022.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was wall mounted in the proposed playroom.

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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:

This requirement has been met. Full insurance was submitted to the Registration Office valid from 14/06/23 until 27/03/24 for a maximum of 22 children on a sessional 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) In the proposed playroom the internal walls and ceilings were freshly painted with no evidence of dampness or mould growth visible. All internal windows were water tight and weather tight when closed.

(b) All site boundaries were secure.

(c) The setting was well lit with a combination of natural and artificial light. The light fittings throughout the premises were covered with shatterproof diffusers. The service was heated by oil radiators that would be thermostatically controlled. High openable windows were provided the playroom, sanitary accommodation, and kitchenette.

(d) The playroom was painted and decorated, and surfaces were clean. A proposed cleaning schedule and a cleaning roster is available in the playroom room which would document the proposed cleaning.

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The floor covering throughout sanitary accommodation and hallway was in good condition and was clean.

(e) There were four toilets and four wash hand basins in the premises, three for children's use and one for staff use. A supply of liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bin was available in the sanitary accommodation. The toilets were ventilated by openable windows. Nappy changing could be facilitated in the designated area in the children's sanitary accommodation.

### 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.*

*(3) 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

The room in which it is proposed to operate the sessional preschool has enough free floor space to accommodate this proposal. Sufficient floor space is available in this playroom.

Room name	Number of children.	Age range	Type of service	Space available	Space required
Playroom	22	2 years to 6 years.	Sessional	The amount of total free space available 56.1m <sup>2</sup>	To accommodate 22 preschool children in sessional care the space requirement is 39.996m <sup>2</sup>

(3) Adequate floor space was available for children cared for on a sessional basis.