

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2023MH002

Name of Service: Chestnut Daycare

Address of Service: Cois Glaisin, Johnstown, Co Meath, C15 KRK7

Email Address: navan@chestnutdaycare.ie

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Laura Higgins

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Drop-In	
	Sessional	✓	Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed service type: Full day care, part time, sessional for 70 preschool children

Proposed Number of Children: 70

Outcome of the F06 Inspection: The provider proposes to accommodate 70 children aged 0 to 6 years on a full-day-care, part time and sessional basis. The provider proposes to operate between 7:30am and 6:00pm Monday to Friday, 51 weeks per year.

Registered service: Registered Full Day Care Service for 70 Children

Date of Inspection:	1	8	0	4	2	0	2	3
	2	8	0	4	2	0	2	3

Inspection Undertaken by: Fiona Carty and Sarah Quigley

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Floor 2, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8

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 70 Children

Date of Registration: 2nd May 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	Chestnut Daycare is a proposed private full-day, part-time and sessional service located within a residential housing estate in Johnstown, Co Meath. The proposed provider intends to operate the service from 7.30am to 6pm each weekday and accommodate a maximum of 70 preschool children aged 0 to 6 years. This service is one of 6 services operated by the registered provider.
Premises	The single storey purpose built building comprises of an entrance hall, office, 5 care rooms, sleep room, a storage room, a kitchen and sanitary accommodation for children, staff and an accessible toilet. The building also contains several storage areas. Two outdoor play areas are available, one is located to the rear of the property, and one is located at the side of the building with direct access from the premises. Off road parking is provided at the front of the building.
Staffing	The service will be initially staffed by 5 staff comprising of 4 staff who will work in designated care rooms and a manager, the registered provider will also be onsite during the initial operating phase. All childcare staff will have a qualification at a minimum level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications.
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 inspectors wish 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A manager is employed to work in the service on a full time basis. Garda vetting obtained on the 21st February 2022 was available in respect of this person. An additional staff member is proposed to deputise in the absence of this person.

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) A total of 5 staff will initially be employed to work directly with the children. An additional member of staff will be available to assist in all care rooms where necessary.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

	<p>(a) All of the care rooms are bright, and the walls are decorated with colourful posters. All care rooms are fully equipped with a range of play materials and equipment suitable to the age and stage of the children attending each room. Low level furniture and shelving were available containing materials for creative and imaginative play. These included designated interest areas including a home corner, sand play and small world play accessible to the children at their level. A rest area with books was available in each care room.</p> <p>(b) A separate sleep room was provided equipped with 4 cots. Stackable beds were available for children over 2 years of age attending on a full day care basis who required sleep or rest. All care rooms had suitable and comfortable rest areas available which contained soft matting and cushions.</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>(a) Two outdoor play areas are available. One is located to the rear of the premise and a smaller area is located to the side of the premises. Both areas had a small amount of equipment available, and the registered provider stated more equipment has been ordered and will be in place when the service opens. Impact absorbing surfacing covered the entire ground areas of both outdoor areas. A perimeter wall surrounded both outdoor areas and gates which led to an area outside of the premises at each end of the building contained a high-level lock which only allowed authorised people gain access or leave the premises.</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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>A kitchen is available for the preparation and provision of food and drinks for children. The proposed registered provider has employed a chef to work in the service, a three-week rolling varied and nutritious menu will be in place which contains two meals, a minimum of one of which will be hot and a snack will be provided daily for children attending on a full day care basis. Breakfast will also be provided.</p>
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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.

External doors will be secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The two gates in the outdoor areas were suitably secured with high level locks. The emergency exit doors were unobstructed. There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins throughout the service. Cleaning schedules are in place. Cleaning materials were stored safely. The kitchen was inaccessible to children.

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) The proposed registered provider confirmed that there will be always 2 staff members onsite who have current certification in first aid responder training.

Requirement not met:

(2)(a) There were no suitably equipped first aid boxes available for inspection.

It is acknowledged that the registered provider submitted receipts for the first aid boxes subsequent to the inspection.

Response from Provider:

First aid boxes have been ordered and have arrived. One in each room, kitchen and outdoor area.

Summary Comment:

A follow up inspection was undertaken on 28th April 2023. The inspector observed first aid boxes in all care rooms and in the kitchen area.

The requirement has been met.

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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:	<p>(1)(a) The proposed registered provider has indicated that fire drills will be carried out when the service is operational.</p> <p>(1)(b) There was a record available relating to the number and type of fire fighting equipment. A service took place in April 2022. The fire detection system was last serviced on the 26th August 2021.</p>
Requirement not met:	(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were not displayed conspicuously throughout the premises. The fire assembly point was not identified.
Response from Provider:	All floor plans and emergency procedures have been printed and placed in the correct areas. Assembly point sign has been erected.
Summary Comment:	<p>A follow up inspection was undertaken on 28th April 2023. The inspector observed the emergency procedures were placed in all rooms and in communal areas throughout the service.</p> <p>The requirement has been met.</p>

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>A copy of the insurance certificate was provided to the Registration Office on 2nd May 2023, covering a maximum of 70 children on a full day care basis, valid from 02/05/23 until 27/03/24.</p>
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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 partially met.

(a) The service is a purpose built building located in a residential development. The interior walls, floors and ceilings of the rooms in use by the service appeared in a good state of repair and maintenance. Windows in the care rooms appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and were both positioned and opened above child height. There was no evidence of dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings. The proposed registered provider confirmed that he had no knowledge of any structural defects.

(b) The service was adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry.

(c) The service was adequately lit and heated. The lighting was provided by natural light from openable windows supplemented with ceiling light fittings with covers. The rooms were fitted with controlled radiators which heated using natural gas and the room temperature was maintained between 18-22°C. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water was available in all hand wash sinks.

(d) Cleaning schedules were in place and the premises was maintained in a clean condition.

Requirement not met:

(c) There was no means of ventilation in the designated nappy changing facility adjacent to Toddler Room 2.

(e) There were inadequate sanitary facilities in the service for the proposed number of children attending the service. While there were sufficient toilets for the proposed number of children there was an inadequate number of sinks for handwashing.

There was only 1 nappy changing unit within the service.

The service proposes to have 20 children aged 1 year and an additional 27 children aged 2 years some of which will require nappy changing.

The requirement is to have 1 nappy changing unit and sink to 11 children who require nappy changing.

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	An additional 2 wash hand basins are required in the large sanitary accommodation.
Response from Provider:	<p>(c) Ventilation has been added to the changing room.</p> <p>(e) Sinks and mixer taps are being added on the 27th April 2023.</p> <p>We have added 2 more changing units.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>A follow up inspection was undertaken on 28th April 2023.</p> <p>The inspector observed the following:</p> <p>(c) A mechanical ventilation unit was installed into the designated nappy room and appeared to be in good working order.</p> <p>(e) Adequate sanitary facilities for the children attending the service are now available.</p> <p>An additional two nappy changing units have been installed one in the large sanitary accommodation and one in the accessible toilet area. An additional two sinks have been installed in the large sanitary accommodation.</p> <p>The requirement has been met.</p>

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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) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children attending the service as demonstrated below:

(2)

Room	Toddler 1	Toddler 2	Wobbler 1	Wobbler 2	Montessori
Clear Floor Space	33.04 sqm	31.52 sqm	27.04 sqm	31.31 sqm	54.89 sqm
Proposed Age Range	2 – 3 years	2 – 3 years	1 – 2 years	1 – 2 years	3 – 6 years

The premises can accommodate a proposed number of 70 pre-school children. The premises was designed to ensure that the required floor space for a maximum number of 70 pre-school children in the proposed age ranges attending on a full day care basis in the Preschool, Wobbler and Toddler Rooms and on a sessional basis in the Montessori room is met subject to the age ranges proposed for each room.

(4) The registered provider proposes to have a maximum of 70 children attending a combination of sessional, part-time and full care basis at any one time.