

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2023MH005

Name of Service Carlanstown Montessori and Afterschool

Address of Service: Normanstown, Carlanstown, Kells, Co. Meath, A82PCK4

Email Address: carlanstownmontessori@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Geraldine Mc Cabe

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

Proposed change:

- Change in Number of Children that can be Accommodated: from 11 to 22 – Additional Room
- Addition of a session accommodating 11 Children from 9am to 12 pm.
- Changing service type from Sessional to Part Time/ Sessional.
- Change in hours of operation from 9:30am- 12:30pm to 08:30 - 13:30 and 09:00 -14:00 hours.
- Change in number of staff employed from 2 to 5 staff.

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection:

- Service can accommodate 22 children using an additional room.
- Change service type from Sessional to Part Time/ Sessional.
- Change in hours of operation from 9:30am- 12:30pm to 08:30 - 13:30 and 09:00 -14:00 hours.
- Change in number of staff employed from 2 to 5 staff.

Registered change:

- Change in number of children from 11 to 22 children
- Additional service type from sessional to part-time & sessional
- Change in hours of operation from 09:30 – 12:30 to 08:30 – 13:30 & 09:00 – 14:00
- Change in number of staff from 2 to 5 staff

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Date of Inspection:	2	2	0	4	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
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Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part-time & Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	20 th June 2025

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 service is based adjacent to the registered providers own home in a separate building. The service currently accommodates 11 preschool children for a sessional service from 9.30am to 12.30pm each day and an afternoon service for school aged children operating from 14.00hrs to 18.00hrs each weekday
Premises	There is currently one care room in operation with sanitary accommodation just off the room which consists of two toilets and two wash hand basins. A mobile nappy changing unit was available in the downstairs sanitary accommodation. A staff toilet was available within the registered provider's own home. This is a two-storey building and a second preschool room is proposed for upstairs with sanitary accommodation available in the hallway and a kitchenette. A separate entrance was available for the upstairs room.
Staffing	The registered provider and two staff members are currently employed in the service. The registered provider proposes to employ an additional two staff member's.
Methodology	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.

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of 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:

(1)(a) This requirement has been met.

The service has 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.

Two staff members are currently working directly with 11 pre-school children attending the service. Two additional staff members are being sought to care for the proposed additional 11 pre-school children. The registered provider is also available.

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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.

Requirement met:	(1)(a) The service is well resourced with play materials and equipment. For example, the care rooms are set up with Montessori materials, art area, home corner, construction and library areas. (b) A rest area is equipped with comfortable soft mats and cushions in both pre-school rooms to enable children to take a break from activities and rest if required. (2)(b) An outdoor area is available for pre-school children; the surface is grass. The outdoor area is secure with gates and fencing.
Requirement not met:	(1)(b) A stackable bed or mat was not available in the service for rest if required for the proposed children attending on a part time basis.
Response from Provider:	Three stackable beds purchased; photograph of beds sent to Early Years Inspector.
Summary Comment:	The response from the registered provider has addressed the requirements for regulation 20.

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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:

Parents will provide lunches for their children who are attending the sessional service (ECCE). The healthy eating policy is available to parents. Children staying on for part-time hours will take in a second snack from home. Children will have their drink bottles readily available within the care rooms. The registered provider stated that additional food would be available if needed.

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 Measures

- The indoor environmental hygiene in the pre-school was well maintained. Cleaning records were available identifying all areas within the pre-school and dates for cleaning.
- A fridge was available for the storage of perishable lunch items to prevent the growth of food poisoning bacteria.

General Safety

- External doors can be secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school children. It is proposed that the children attending the care room upstairs will use a separate entrance.
- Bins are secured in an area inaccessible to pre-school children.
- Play materials and equipment are stored on stable based storage units, positioned at levels accessible to the pre-school children.
- All emergency doors were unobstructed.

Requirement not met:

Infection Control Measures

- Thermostatically controlled running water was not available to wash hand basins in the upstairs children's sanitary accommodation.

General Safety

- The kitchenette upstairs was not adequately secured the door was open and no lock or otherwise was present.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protective covers were not provided on two hanging bulbs in the upstairs care room, hallway and stairwell.
Response from Provider:	<p>Infection Control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thermostat fitted by the electrician water adjusted so it does not exceed 43°C. <p>General Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The kitchenette is locked with a key, key only accessible at height by adult. Dome covers fitted on lights in all areas.
Summary Comment:	The response from the registered provider has been accepted.

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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The registered provider ensures that a staff member trained in first aid is available to children at all times.</p> <p>(2) A first aid box is available and accessible in the pre-school rooms.</p>
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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:	(1)(a) A record of fire drills for the premises was available. (b) A maintenance certificate for the fire extinguisher was available. The fire extinguishers maintenance certificate was dated 4 th March 2025. (4) A notice to be followed in the event of a fire was available in the pre-school rooms.
Requirement not met:	(1)(b) A maintenance certificate for the smoke alarms was not available.
Response from Provider:	(1)(b) The smoke alarms were serviced on the 31 st May 2025.
Summary Comment:	The response from the registered provider has been accepted.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:	An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.
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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:

This requirement was partially met.

(a)The premises appear to be in good condition throughout.

(b)The entrance doors leading directly into the room are kept locked at all times during the operational hours of the preschool service.

(c) Lighting
The premises was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating
The premises are heated by means of electric radiators. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation are within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-20°C on the day of inspection.

Ventilation
Ventilation is predominantly provided by means of openable windows. The downstairs care room and sanitary accommodation benefited from openable windows. The upstairs care room had a skylight window that opened.

(d) Up to date documented cleaning schedules are on display in the service.

(e) A total of 2 toilets serviced with 2 wash hand basins were available downstairs and one toilet and wash hand basin were available to the children upstairs. A mobile nappy changing unit which is taken into the toilet area at nappy changing was available downstairs. A staff toilet was available in the registered provider’s own home.

Liquid soap is available for pre-school children’s use.

Requirement not met:

(c)The children’s sanitary accommodation upstairs was not adequately ventilated as there was no openable window and/or mechanical ventilation.

(d)Dog excrement was observed in the outdoor play area.

(e)Toilet roll holders were not available for the children, toilet roll was stored on the cistern of the toilet which would be difficult for the children to access. Paper towel for hand drying was not available for the children’s sanitary accommodation upstairs.

Response from Provider:

(c)A mechanical vent was fitted by an electrician.

(d)Risk assessment carried out each morning on the garden to ensure nothing unsuitable present.

(e)Blue roll holder now fitted to the wall and toilet roll holder now in place.

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Summary Comment:

The response from the registered provider has been accepted.

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:

The requirement has been met.
There is adequate and suitable space for an additional 11 preschool children upstairs.
The upstairs room measures 28.5m².