

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2023TY001
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Loughmore Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Loughmore National School, Loughmore, Templemore, Tipperary
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<b>Email Address:</b>	rosaleenfairbrother@yahoo.ie
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<b>Name of Proposed Registered Provider:</b>	Rosaleen Dwyer
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<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Sessional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Proposed service type:</b>	Full Day Care
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<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	22
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<b>Outcome of the F06 Inspection</b>	Full Day Care for up to 22 children aged 2 – 6 years old, Monday – Friday, 7am – 6pm.
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<b>Registered service:</b>	The service meets the minimum space requirements to accommodate up to 22 children, however is not planning to cater for this number at this time. Therefore, the service will initially be registered as a Full Day Care Service for 11 children and will submit a CIC to increase numbers when required.
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	0	0	5	2	0	2	3
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<b>Inspection Undertaken by:</b>	L McGeeney
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Tipperary
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<b>Rationale for Inspection</b>
<b>Proposed New Service</b>

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care Service for 11 Children
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<b>Date of Registration:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>The proposed service will operate Monday – Friday, 7am – 6pm for 51 weeks of the year. The service will cater for children aged between 2 and 6 years. A registered school aged care service will also be provided for children aged between 5 and 15 years old.</p> <p>This service will be a sister service to Buttons and Bows Childminding Service, Templemore; Orchard Childminding Service, Errill, Co. Laois and Leabh Mo Chroí, Rathdowney, Co. Laois.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The proposed premises is located behind Loughmore National School in the village of Loughmore in North Tipperary. The premises is a newly constructed, freestanding, single storey building to which the service will have exclusive use. There is a large activity room, kitchen and sanitary accommodation areas. The premises is separated from the school grounds by green mesh fencing and gates creating a safe space in front of the building and a separate outdoor play area. The service will also have access to the school grounds for outdoor play.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The registered provider will not work in the service on a daily basis but will be present there several times each week. The service manager will be the person in charge on a daily basis, supported by a second member of staff. Both staff hold recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels 5 or 7 on the national framework of qualifications.</p>
<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>	<p>The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and person in charge who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

### 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 service manager will be the designated person in charge and there was a named person who could deputise in her absence.

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) It is proposed that there will be 2 staff working with up to 22 children aged between 2 and 6 years for the morning session. It is proposed that there will be up to 16 early years children in the afternoon with 2 staff. It is proposed that there will also be school aged children present in the afternoon.

(8)(a) It is proposed that there will be at least two staff present at all times while 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—*
- (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 children will have access to the large, bright and comfortable activity room. The space was laid out in a number of interest areas using storage units and other furniture to mark out the different areas: Art area, imaginative play area, cosy relaxation area and construction and small world area. There was direct access from the activity room into the designated outdoor play area.

(b) A separate sleep room was not required as it is proposed that all children will be aged over two years. There was a cosy area in the room with padded floor mats and a canopy covered shelter where the children can rest and relax away from the general play area. There were several stackable camp beds, sheets and blankets available for use by children who require a sleep during the day.

(2)(a) The children will have access to a variety of outdoor play areas on a daily basis. The designated outdoor area for the service was located beside the premises. This area was enclosed by green metal mesh fencing and gates which enabled the children to see beyond to the rest of the school grounds. The ground surface was covered with soft fall matting. The children would also have access to the sports field behind the premises which had a grass surface and was surrounded by countryside and views of the nearby Devil's Bit Mountain. The school grounds in front of the service include a natural area with mature trees, swings and planting areas and a playground with play houses and climbing frames.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

There was a healthy eating policy for the proposed service and a three-week menu plan. It is proposed that children will bring a packed lunch for their morning break. Additional food will be available in the service if children are hungry. Perishable foods will be stored in the fridge in the kitchen.

Meals provided by the service will include: Breakfast, between 7am and 9am, morning snack at 10am, afternoon snack at 12.30pm, dinner at 2pm and evening tea at 4pm. The food will be prepared and cooked on the premises by staff.

The children will bring individual drink bottles of water and the service will supply drinks of milk or water with meals and as 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:

This requirement has been met.

#### General Safety

The proposed service is located at the back of Loughmore National School. Parents and children will pass through a pedestrian gate to access the school grounds, then walk to the back of the premises and through a metal gate to access the proposed service. The fencing and gates around both the school grounds and the grounds of the proposed service prevent children gaining unsupervised access to the roadway in front of the site.

The entrance and side doors of the proposed service had large glass panels at the top and bottom which enabled staff to see who was seeking access to the service before opening the door to them.

The service was monitored by a CCTV system.

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	<p>Hot water for hand washing was thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C.</p> <p>There was a lockable door into the kitchen to prevent children gaining unsupervised access to this area.</p> <p><b>Infection Prevention and Control</b></p> <p>The service was newly constructed and finished to a high standard which made cleaning and maintenance easier. There was a cleaning schedule for the service including all surfaces, toys, equipment, materials, fixtures and fittings.</p> <p>There was a sink in the activity room as well as in the sanitary accommodation areas and in the kitchen to support hand washing at appropriate times during the day by both children and staff.</p> <p>The service had a policy on infection control and prevention.</p> <p><b>Safe Sleep</b></p> <p>A separate sleep room was not required as it is proposed that the service will cater for children aged over two years old. It is proposed that the children will sleep in a quiet area in the room and be monitored by staff while they sleep.</p> <p><b>Fire Safety</b></p> <p>Fire escape routes were kept clear of obstruction.</p>
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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
  - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- (1) The proposed manager held current certification in first aid response (FAR) valid until 27 May 2024.

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- (2)(a) There was a new, well stocked first aid box on a wall bracket in the entrance lobby where it could be easily accessed when required.
- (b) The first aid box was available if required by a child attending the service.

### 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) There was a template available to record the monthly fire drills.
- (b) There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. The firefighting equipment was recently installed. The smoke alarm system was commissioned in September 2022.
- (4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed on the wall in the entrance lobby.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

A copy of the insurance certificate was submitted to the Registration Office covering a maximum of 11 children only on a full day care basis. Therefore, the service will initially be registered as a Full Day Care Service for 11 children and will submit a CIC to increase numbers when required.

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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 has been met.

(a) The premises was recently constructed, and all building works had been completed inside and outside. The premises appeared to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) The premises was safe and secure. The front and side doors opening into enclosed spaces which prevented the children from leaving the service unsupervised. The doors were lockable. There were windows in each wall of the premises which enabled staff and children to see who was approaching the service.

(c) The service was well lit with natural light, supplemented by artificial light.

The premises was heated by an air to water heat pump which heated the underfloor heating system. There were thermostats on the walls in each room to regulate the room temperature.

There were windows in the main room, sanitary accommodation areas and kitchen which opened to allow for ventilation. The windows had inbuilt trickle vents in the frame to allow for passive ventilation when the windows were closed.

(d) The premises, toys, equipment, materials, fixtures and fittings were new, clean and in good repair.

(e) There were 2 sanitary accommodation areas in the premises: an area for the children and another for staff. There were 3 toilets and 3 hand washing sinks in total which was sufficient for up to 22 toilet-trained children and up to 8 staff. There was a wall mounted nappy changing unit in the staff sanitary accommodation area for use if children who are not yet toilet trained attend the service.

**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.*
- (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:**

- (1) The room had 56.35m<sup>2</sup> of clear floor space available.
- (4) The room had sufficient space for the proposed 22 children aged between 2.5 and 6 years to attend on a sessional basis or for 22 children aged 3 to 6 years to attend on a part-time or full day care basis.