

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2023WH001
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Juniper Tree Autism Service Ltd TA Sundancers
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Unit 7, Castlepollard Shopping Centre, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath
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<b>Email Address:</b>	junipertreeaba@gmail.com
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<b>Name of Proposed Registered Provider:</b>	Sarah Mulligan
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<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"/>

<b>Proposed service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	20 children
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<b>Outcome of the F06 Inspection</b> (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Sessional service for 20 children aged 2 to 6 years. Times of operation: 09:00 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 15:30
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<b>Registered service:</b>	Registered Sessional Service for 20 children.
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	0	0	8	2	0	2	3
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<b>Inspection Undertaken by:</b>	C O' Connor Hughes
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, SAP office, St Loman's Campus Springfield, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
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### Rationale for Inspection

### Proposed New Service

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Sessional Service for 20 children.
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<b>Date of Registration:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> August 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>	This proposed service will provide an Early Education and Childcare programme to children. The proposed hours of operation are 09:00 to 12:00 and 12:30 to 15:30 on a Monday to Friday basis. The age range of children will be 2 to 6 years.
<b>Premises</b>	The proposed Early Years Service is located in an adapted unit at the Castlepollard Shopping Centre, Co Westmeath. The service consists of a large pre-school room and kitchen/office. Sanitary accommodation is available for children and adults. An outdoor play area is available adjacent to the pre-school service.
<b>Staffing</b>	The proposed registered provider stated three adults will be employed in the service including a named designated person in charge.
<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>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider who was 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The proposed pre-school service has a named designated person in charge and deputy person in charge.</p>
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### 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 was met.

The registered provider stated that two adults will work with the proposed twenty children to ensure the correct adult: child ratio is maintained at all times.  
A third adult will maintain the role of the designated person in charge 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, 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.*

(3) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)

Adequate and suitable play facilities were available for children. Numerous interest areas included a home area, construction, arts and crafts, sensory and Montessori practical life. Low level tables and chairs were noted in the pre-school room with materials accessible to children on low level shelving.

(2)(a)

An outdoor play area is provided adjacent to the pre-school room. The outdoor play area is safe and secure surrounded by wooden fencing.

(3)(a)

The outdoor play has a cement surface. Toys and equipment included sand and water play areas, balancing beams and a construction area.

#### Requirement not met:

The requirement was not met.

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	(1)(b) A cosy rest area was not available in the pre-school room for children to rest and relax as required.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	(1)(b) Two sofas ordered from company. Refer to receipt attached.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirement was met.

### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement was met.  A healthy eating policy was available for review. The proposed registered provider stated the parents will provide sufficient and healthy snacks for the proposed children attending the service. A fridge is available for the storage of perishable goods.
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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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement was met.  The main entrance doors to the pre-school service are secured by a magnetic system. Blind cords were secured on all windows in the pre-school room. The emergency exit doors are unobstructed.
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	The requirement was not met.  1. A fire assembly point notice was not in place outside the service.  2. Trailing cables were noted from the electric heater and the from the CD/ radio player in the Montessori area.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	1.Fire assembly point erected outside the service.  2. Trailing cables attached to wall.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirement was met.

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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

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement was met.  (1) The designated person in charge and staff member are qualified in first aid response (FAR) training.  (2)(b) A first aid box is available to children in the service.
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	The requirement was not met.  (2)(a) The first aid box was not equipped in line with TUSLA Quality Regulation Framework checklist requirements.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	(2)(a) First aid box restocked according to TUSLA Quality Regulation Framework checklist.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirement was met.

### 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement was met.  (1)(b) Maintenance records were available for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms dated 24 September 2022 and 17 December 2022 respectively.  (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the pre-school room.
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	The requirement was not met.  (1)(a) A fire register was not available for monthly fire drills to be conducted in the pre-school service.

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<b>Response from Provider:</b>	(1)(a) Fire register in place for monthly fire drills.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirement was met.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement was met. Full insurance received for Sessional service for 22 children. Valid 25.08.23 to 27.03.24.
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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*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(a) The premises visually appeared to be of sound and stable structure.</p> <p>(b) The main entrance is secure to ensure the children’s safety within the service.</p> <p>(c) The environmental temperature in the pre-school room was recorded at 19.5 degrees Celsius. Heating in the service is provided by three electric heaters. A wall mounted thermometer is in place in the service.</p> <p>Natural lighting is supplemented by adequate artificial lighting in the pre-school room.</p> <p>Three openable windows are available in the pre-school room for natural ventilation. Mechanical ventilation is operational in the children and adults’ sanitary accommodation.</p> <p>The service is connected to both the public drainage and water supply.</p> <p>(d) The floors and the walls are in a good state of repair and maintenance with the exception of the requirements not met noted below. A cleaning schedule was available for the service.</p>
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	<p>(e) Two toilets and two wash hand basins are available in the children’s sanitary accommodation. A wall mounted nappy changing unit is located in one of the children’s cubicle. Warm running water, soap and hand towels were in place. The water temperature recorded at wash hand basins was 36 to 39 degrees Celsius. A staff toilet with wash hand basin is located to the rear of the service.</p>
<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p>The requirement was not met.</p> <p>(c) There was no maintenance certificate for the electric heaters in the service.</p> <p>(d) 1. The fire exit door was stiff and difficult to open and required repair. 2. There were no arrangements in place for the safe and secure removal of refuse from the service. 3. Appropriate arrangements were not in place to prevent or monitor pest activity in the premises. 4. The wall near the construction area in the pre-school room required painting. 5. Four white chairs and a blue table required repair or replacement. 6. Four cracked floor tiles required repair or replacement in the pre-school room. 7. One of the electric heaters in the pre-school room was not working and required repair. 8. The splashback at the main sink in the pre-school room required cleaning and repainting. 9. One of the foot pedal bins in the pre-school room was not operational. 10. The covers on the three children’s chairs required replacement.</p>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>(c) Electric heaters inspected and repaired by a qualified electrician.</p> <p>(d) 1.Fire exit door repaired. 2.Contract obtained to remove refuse from the service.</p>

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	<p>3.Contract obtained to monitor and prevent pest activity in the premises.</p> <p>4.Wall painted.</p> <p>5.Four white chairs and a blue table removed from the service.</p> <p>6.Four cracked floor tiles repaired and covered with carpet.</p> <p>7.Electric heater repaired by a qualified electrician.</p> <p>8.New waterproof splashback installed at the main sink in the preschool room.</p> <p>9.Broken foot pedal bin replaced.</p> <p>10. Three childrens’ chairs removed from service and new ones ordered.</p>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirement was met.

### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space was available to provide the children with an environment to work, play and move freely on a sessional basis.</p> <p>(3) The pre-school room measured approximately 86 metres square and met the required floor space for the proposed twenty children attending the service on a sessional basis.</p>
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