

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2023WW001
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Riverside Childcare Rathdrum
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Oaks Springs, The Woods, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow A67 X665
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<b>Email Address:</b>	riversiderathdrum@gmail.com
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<b>Name of Proposed Registered Provider:</b>	Michael Dunster
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<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	✓	<b>Part-Time</b>	✓	<b>Drop-In</b>	×
	<b>Sessional</b>	✓	<b>Childminding</b>	×	<b>Temporary</b>	×

<b>Proposed service type:</b>	Full Day Care
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	28
<b>Outcome of the F06 Inspection</b> (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Full Day Care Proposed number of children 28 1 to 6 years of age Operational hours 08.00 – 18.00
<b>Registered service:</b>	Registered Full Day Care for 28 children.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	9	0	8	2	0	2	3
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<b>Inspection Undertaken by:</b>	H. Bourke
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector

<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency
	First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Road Bray Co. Wicklow

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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 Full Day Car for 28 children.
<b>Date of Registration:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023

### 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>	The proposed private childcare facility aims to provide full day care for children aged one year to six years of age. The service proposes to accommodate a maximum number of 28 children at full capacity.
<b>Premises</b>	The proposed service consists of a two storey, purpose-built premises which can accommodate the childcare service. There are two care rooms available on the ground floor with a dedicated sleep room; a staff room and a kitchen are also provided. There is one large enclosed outdoor space on the premises.
<b>Staffing</b>	The registered provider has appointed a manager and deputy manager for the service. Initially there will be four adults working with children and these adults have all attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 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 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</p>

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	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 person in charge 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The registered provider has ensured that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The service proposes to accommodate 28 children on a sessional, part time and full-time basis with an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times.

There will be four staff members employed in the service.

(8)(c)

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Not applicable as this is not a sessional service that operates single handedly.

### 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)(a)

The service comprises of two care rooms. The rooms are bright and spacious and well laid out to cater for the age range of children who will be attending in each room. Montessori toys, dolls, colouring pencils, construction area, a cosy area, puzzles and jigsaws were amongst the age appropriate toys and equipment that will be available for the children attending the service.

(b)

There is a cot room with three standard cots at present. Storable mattresses have been provided for children over two years of age and suitable rest areas are provided in each care room. Additional cots and mattresses will be purchased if required.

(2)(a)

There is a large enclosed outdoor area provided to the side and rear of the premises; this area can be accessed from both care rooms. The area is suitable, safe and secure.

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	This outdoor space consists of a large, grassed surface area. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area. There was an assortment of suitable toys available for all proposed age groups attending the pre-school.
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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:

The requirement has been met.

Parents will be requested to provide all snacks for their child attending on a sessional, parttime and fulltime basis. Breakfast and hot lunches will be provided by the registered provider and will be in line with the Health Eating policy of the service. Refrigerated storage facilities are available for perishable snacks.

An outside catering company will be providing the meals to the service. The staff will heat lunches required for children availing of parttime and full day care services. Portable water will be available for children.

If a child requires additional food the onsite kitchen will provide a healthy snack 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 partially met.

- The manager stated the front door will be locked at all times, ensuring children cannot leave the service unsupervised and unauthorised access to the service cannot occur.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Storage is available for children’s belongings.
- Cleaning materials and equipment are locked in a cupboard in the service.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The kitchen is inaccessible to children.</li> <li>• A fridge is available in the kitchen for the storage of food.</li> <li>• A cleaning schedule for toys and equipment was available.</li> <li>• The sanitary accommodations were well stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towel. The water temperature was recorded at 36.2°C. Foot pedal bins were available in all sanitary areas, for the safe disposal of used paper towels.</li> <li>• The pre-school rooms and sanitary accommodations are ventilated by openable windows and mechanical ventilation.</li> <li>• Turnkey mechanisms are available on all external doors and emergency exits.</li> </ul>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There was no facility to dim the natural light in the sleep room.</li> <li>2. A restrictive device needs to be fitted to the stairs to prevent children’s access to the upper floor of the building.</li> <li>3. Outdoor waste facilities need to be inaccessible to the children.</li> <li>4. All internal door keys need to be clearly identifiable and placed in an accessible location for adults but out of the reach of children.</li> <li>5. Paper towel dispensers need to be fitted in the sanitary areas.</li> </ol>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Blinds have been installed in the sleep room. Picture provided.</li> <li>2. A restrictive device has been installed to prevent access to the upstairs. Picture provided.</li> <li>3. Bins have arrived and are kept at the left side of the building where children have no access. Picture provided.</li> <li>4. All keys have been tagged and named and are safely kept where adults can access away from children. Picture provided.</li> <li>5. Paper towel dispensers have been installed in all the sanitary areas. Pictures provided.</li> </ol>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	<p>The photographic evidence supplied by the proposed registered provider has addressed the requirements not met in relation to Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child No’s 1-5 as listed above.</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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The manager has a current certification in FAR training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was available for the service.

(b)

The first aid box was clearly identifiable and readily accessible.

### 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:

The requirement has partially been met.

(1)(a)

The manager has indicated that fire drills will continue to be carried out in both pre-school rooms when the Full Day care service is fully operational.

#### Requirement not met:

(1)(b)

There was no firefighting equipment available on the premises and there was no certificate available to confirm the installation date of the smoke detection system.

(4)

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	A notice was not displayed in a conspicuous place to show the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	(1)(b) The Fire Company has installed all necessary equipment. There is firefighting equipment in all rooms and the smoke detection system has been serviced on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of August 2023. Pictures provided. Certificates also attached to email.  (4) Fire evacuation notices have been displayed around the entire premises. Pictures provided.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	(1)(b) and (4) The photographic evidence supplied by the proposed registered provider has addressed the requirements not met in relation to Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures.

### Part VI - Safety

<b>Regulation 28 – Insurance</b>	
<i>A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met. Full insurance received for Full Day Care and 28 children.

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 met.

(a)

The proposed service is located on the ground floor of a purpose-built facility.

(b)

The point of entry to the service is through the main door which is monitored by the manager and can be locked with a key from the inside.

The outdoor area is secured with a high wooden fence and there is a padlocked gate at the point of entry to the outdoor area to prevent a child leaving unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.

(c)

The premises benefits from natural light via windows in the pre-school rooms. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from covered fluorescent ceiling lights in the pre-school rooms. There is an air to water heating system in place which has been serviced in June 2023. Windows in the pre-school rooms can be opened but have restrictors in place and there is a combination of mechanical and natural ventilation in the sanitary area.

(d)

A cleaning schedule was in place in both pre-school rooms. The premises and surrounding environment were clean and well maintained.

(e)

There is sanitary accommodation located within Room 1 and adjacent to Room 2. Room 1 has a child size toilet, a sink and a nappy changing unit. Room 2 has two separate child-sized toilets and two wash hand basins. A separate toilet and wash

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hand basin is located on the ground floor for adults and another toilet for disability access. Thermostatically controlled hot water was available in the children’s sanitary areas and the temperature of the water in the low sinks was 36.2°C.

### 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 the number of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated below:

(2)

#### **Room 1. (Baby room)**

The clear floor space in the baby room measured 33.67 square metres.

#### **Room 2. (Pre-school room)**

The clear floor space in the pre-school room measured 33.40 square metres.

There is sufficient space in the service to cater for the proposed 28 pre-school children on a part-time/full time basis in the proposed age ranges.

(4)(a)(b)

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There is adequate floor space to accommodate 36 children who may attend during the operation of a concurrent sessional service.