

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2023WW003

Name of Service Little Stars on the Lane

Address of Service: 1 Seagreen Gate, Greystone, Co Wicklow A63 C924

Email Address: ciara@naionra.org

Name of Registered Provider: Ciara Watson and Kara Gargolinski McAlister

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: Change in the number of children from 33 to 49 with the addition of a third care room.

Proposed Number of Children: 49

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Increase from 33 to 49 children. 45 full day care and 4 on a sessional only basis.

Registered change: Change in number of children from 33 to 49(Max 45 full day) children

Date of Inspection:	1	3	0	2	2	0	2	6
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Inspection undertaken by: H. Bourke

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 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 Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day & Sessional Service for 49 (Max 45 Full Day) Children
Date of Registration	13 March 2026

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	This privately owned full day care service first opened in November 2023. The service is registered to provide care and education for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age, on a full-time basis and sessional basis. The registered providers operate the full-time service in conjunction with a sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) service for 38 weeks. The service operates from 07.30am to 06.30pm, Monday to Friday.
Premises	The service operates from a two storey, purpose-built premises, located on the outskirts of Greystones in Co Wicklow. There are currently two care rooms on the ground floor, each with its own sanitary accommodation. There is an additional room which is now being proposed as the third care room. A disability toilet with nappy changing facilities is available on the ground floor adjacent to the proposed care room. On the first floor there is a staff room, office, laundry room, kitchen and staff sanitary accommodation.
Staffing	There is a total of eight staff members currently employed in the service, this includes the person in charge, who is supernumerary and available to support staff when needed. All eight staff members were present on the day of inspection; the registered providers were also present. The registered providers are available to support in the care of the children attending the service if the need arises.

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<p>Methodology</p>	<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 the following 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 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.</p>
<p>Acknowledgements</p>	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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 is met.

(1)(a)

There is a designated person in charge, and a named person is available to deputise as required.

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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 has been met.

(1)

The service currently can accommodate 33 children on a sessional, part time and full-time basis with an adequate number of adults working directly with the children during their day. The proposed new room will provide eight new spaces for children attending the service. The registered providers will ensure that there are an adequate number of staff in place when the child numbers increase.

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

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The proposed new room is bright and spacious and well laid out to cater for the age range of children who will be attending. The proposed new room is located at the front of the premises, separate from the other two care rooms.

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There is a cosy area in the proposed care room consisting of a large mat and soft furnishings should a child require a rest during their day.

(3)(a)

There is a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space available on the premises that the children will have access to every day.

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:

The requirement has been met.

All meals and snacks are provided by the service. Hot meals are sourced through an outside catering company, and breakfast and snacks are made on site in the kitchen.

All food supplied is in line with the health eating policy of the service. Refrigerated storage facilities are available on site in the kitchen. The staff heat the meals required for children and prepare the snacks on site. Potable water is available for children.

If a child requires additional food the staff will provide a healthy snack as needed.

Children who attend on a sessional only basis are required to provide their own snacks.

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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:

The requirement is met

- Cleaning materials and equipment are locked in a cupboard in the service.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to children.
- A fridge is available in the kitchen for the storage of food.
- The outdoor space consists of a large, artificially grassed surface area. There are no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area. There was an assortment of suitable toys available for all age groups attending the pre-school.
- A cleaning schedule for toys and equipment was available.
- The sanitary accommodations were well stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towels. The water temperature was recorded at 38.2°C. Foot pedal bins were available in all sanitary areas, for the safe disposal of used paper towels.
- Outdoor waste facilities are inaccessible to children.
- The pre-school rooms and sanitary accommodations are ventilated by openable windows and mechanical ventilation.
- Turnkey mechanisms are available on all external doors and emergency exits.

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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)

Three staff employed in the service have a current certification in First Aid Responder training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the proposed new room.

(b)

The first aid box was clearly identifiable and readily accessible in 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 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The registered providers confirmed that fire drills will continue to be carried out in all pre-school rooms on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill was 5 February 2026.

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- (b)
The maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and the smoke detection system was available and dated the January 2026 and the 4 December 2025 respectively.
- (4)
There were notices available in conspicuous positions in the proposed new care room of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

There was evidence of an insurance policy for 49 pre-school children in place which expires on the 31 August 2026.

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 service is located in a two-storey purpose-built facility and appeared to be of a sound and stable structure.

(b)

The point of entry to the service is through the main door which is monitored by the manager and has a keypad entry from both inside and outside the service.

The outdoor area is secured with a high wooden fence and at the outside entrance there is a padlocked gate at the point of entry, this is 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 proposed pre-school room. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from ceiling lights in the room. There is a gas fired heating system in place. Windows in the proposed care room can be opened but have restrictors in place and there is mechanical ventilation in the sanitary area adjacent to the room.

(d)

A cleaning schedule was in place for the proposed new pre-school room. The premises and surrounding environment were clean and well maintained.

(e)

There is sanitary accommodation located within Room 1 and Room 2.

The proposed new room has access to a combined sanitary area that contains a toilet, a sink and a nappy changing unit.

A separate toilet and wash hand basin is located on the first floor for adults working in the service. Thermostatically controlled hot water was available in the children's sanitary areas and the temperature of the water in the low sinks was 38.2°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.*

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. The clear floor space measured 44.34 square metres.

Room 2. The clear floor space measured 46.06 square metres.

Room 3. The clear floor space measured 19.62 square metres.

There is sufficient space in the service to cater for 45 children to attend on a full-time basis and four children to attend on a sessional basis in the proposed age ranges.