

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024CC006
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Name of Service:	Darling Buds Preschool
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Address of Service:	Scoil Bhríde, Ashlin Road, Townparks, Midleton, Cork P25R248
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Email Address:	sarahwardcork@gmail.com
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Sarah Ward
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type:	Sessional and Part time Day Care
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Proposed Number of Children:	44
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	The service will operate a sessional and part time service. The registered provider stated the service will cater for children aged from 2 years 8 months to 6 years (ECCE)
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Registered service:	Registered Part time Sessional 44 children
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Date of Inspection:	1	3	0	8	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by:	M.O' Reilly
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane Skibbereen Co Cork P81 PD78
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part time Sessional
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Date of Registration:	20 th August 2024
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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).

Description of Service	Darling Buds Preschool is a new service that proposes to operate a sessional and part time service that caters for children aged between 2 years 8 months and 6 years of age attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). The service proposes to open from Monday to Friday between 9am and 2pm.
Premises	The service will operate from two designated classrooms located on the ground floor in Scoil Bhríde, Primary School, located in Midleton, Co Cork. The two spacious classrooms have been suitably converted into an early years service. The service has access to an outdoor area which is located within the grounds of the national school. There are adequate designated children's toilets and a nappy changing facility, and the adults have access to a staff toilet within the national school building.
Staffing	The service proposes on opening, that one room will be in operation and will have three adults who will work directly with the children in the room. The staff will hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.
Methodology	<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>
Acknowledgement	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider/ person in charge who was present on the day of the inspection.

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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.

(a) The service had a named designated person in charge and a named deputy. The registered provider/person in charge was present for the fit for purpose inspection.

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)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(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) It is proposed that when both rooms are in operation five adults will be employed who will work directly with the children. One of the adults will be employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme.

(8)

(b) Not applicable as this is not a proposed child-minder service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a proposed single-hand operated 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) 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 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There are low shelves provided in the playrooms that are accessible to the children. The shelves are stocked with a selection of activities, equipment and play materials that are all functioning and maintained in good condition. The children have access to an outdoor play area, with in the grounds of the national school. The children will have access to the outdoor play area in a rota system with the children in the classrooms within the national school.

(1)(b). There was suitable sleep equipment for children over 2 years that required a sleep while attending the service. Two floor mats were available with suitable individual bed linen. The person in charge stated that the bed linen will be changed weekly or when required. There was a designated rest area provided in both playrooms consisting of padded floor mats with cushions.

(2)(a), (3)(a) There is an outdoor play area provided beside the premise. The outdoor play area has an all-weather surface, that is enclosed by the school building on three sides and a movable plastic barrier on the remaining side. The outdoor play area will be adequately secured, and the children will be adequately supervised by staff when playing outdoors.

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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.

- It is proposed that the parents will provide all the food and drink requirements for the children while attending the service.
- A second nutritional food break will be provided for the children attending the part-time day-care service.
- There will be potable drinking water available in the service.
- The children’s water bottle will be freely available to the children while attending the service.
- A fridge is provided to store perishable foods provided by parents.

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 requirements have been met.

- The main door leading to the service is adequately secured reducing the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premises or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- All toys and play equipment in the proposed playrooms are safe and in good condition.
- There was thermostatically controlled warm water, antibacterial liquid soap dispensers, paper hand towels at the wash hand basin for hygienic hand washing and hygienic hand drying in the adult and children’s toilet facilities and nappy changing area.
- Cleaning agents and equipment are stored safely in a locked room located near the playrooms. Key is located at adult height when room is not in use.
- The openable windows have restrictive opening devices.
- There is a first aid box in both playrooms that is stored on a shelf at adult height.
- Low lying electrical sockets are fitted with safety plugs.
- No cables were within reach of children on the day of inspection.

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- The emergency fire exit doors in the corridor of the school where the service is located were unobstructed at time of inspection.

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 available documentary evidence demonstrates that one of the adults employed at the service holds up to date certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training. This adult will be available on the premises at all times during the hours of operation.

(2)

(a) The first aid box in each playroom was stored on a shelf at adult height

(b) The first aid box was adequately stocked and readily accessible by staff.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a) The requirement is met in relation to the provision of a form for recording monthly fire drills. The person in charge is aware that fire drills are to take place monthly

(b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment and wired smoke alarm is available on file. Service maintenance records were available that the fire equipment and smoke alarms were serviced on an annual basis.

(4) The service has a designated assembly point in the event of a fire. Fire assembly point signage present.

A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed on the premise.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The current insurance certificate was available on file and demonstrated that the service was adequately insured for a part time service. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of children covered which was 44. The start date, which was 12 August 2024, the end date, which was 27 March 2025 and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.

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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:

The requirements have been met.

The provider proposes to operate a sessional and part-time day-care service in a facility that has been adapted to provide an early years' service.

(a) From a visual assessment, the premises appears to be of sound and stable structure.

No mould or cracks are visible. The walls in the playrooms were recently painted.

(b) The entrance door leading to the early years service is adequately secured to prevent access by an unauthorised adult or exit by a child.

(c) There are openable windows in each of the proposed playrooms and in the children's toilets, nappy changing facility and adult toilet.

There are an adequate number of fluorescent lights fitted with covers in the proposed playrooms.

Oil heating is provided in the service and was turned on at time of inspection. The air temperature in the playrooms and toilet area were recorded at 19 to 20°C during the inspection.

(d) Cleaning schedules were available, and all the play materials are clean and in good condition.

(e) The ratio of children's toilets and nappy changing units is:

11 children to every one toilet and one wash hand basin

11 children that require nappy changing to every 1 nappy changing unit and one wash hand basin. There are four designated toilets, and four wash hand basins provided for the children in attendance. There is a separate nappy changing room with a wash hand basin available in the service. There is a designated adult toilet and wash hand basin available for use by the adults. There are an adequate number of adult and children's toilets and nappy changing facilities in the service.

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The premise is serviced by a public sewage system and the water source is from a public supply.

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.*
- (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.*

Requirement met:

(1) +(2)

On completing the measurement of both playrooms, they are both the same size. The two playrooms measured 67.96 square meters. The playrooms are spacious and adequate floor space is available in the proposed playrooms for the work, play and movement of a maximum of 29 children in each room attending the part time service. The adult child ratio for part time day care is 1 adult to 8 children aged between 3 to 6 years.

(3)

The floor space of 1.818 square meters applies per each early years child attending the sessional service (ECCE) Therefore, both playrooms have adequate space to allow up to a maximum of 22 early years children attending the sessional service in each room.