

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.:	TU2024CC009
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Name of Service	Bright Start ELC LTD
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Address of Service:	North Monastery Primary School, North Monastery Road, Cork. T23 VY17
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Email Address:	Brightstart59@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Provider:	Aleah Cronin
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time		Sessional	↓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	- Additional morning sessional service, opening a second playroom catering for children aged from 2 years 8 months to 6 years ECCE. - Change in the number of staff employed from 3 to 4
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Proposed Number of Children:	42
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Recommended Change Following Inspection:	- Addition of a Session (Sessional Service only) for children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. - Change in the number of staff employed from 3 to 4
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Registered change:	Change in Number of Children from 21 to 42 children. Additional morning session Change in Age Profile – from 3-6 years to 2-6 years Change in Staff from 3 to 4 staff
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Date of Inspection:	1	8	0	9	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 Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 42 children
Date of Registration	19 th September 2024

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	Bright Start ELC Ltd proposes to operate an additional sessional service. The service proposes to open a second playroom. It is a private sessional service providing care and education for children aged from 2 years 8 months to 6 years of age. It is proposed that the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme will operate between the hours of 9am to 12noon, Monday to Friday. The service is currently registered for school age care in the afternoon between the hours of 1.30 pm until 4.30 pm.
Premises	The registered provider currently operates one early years care room and proposes to operate a second early years care room. The room is located beside the other room on the same corridor on the ground floor of the North Monastery Primary School in Cork. There are adequate toilets beside the care rooms, for use by the children and adult toilets are available in the building. The proposed service will have designated access to a secure outdoor play area that is situated to the front of the early years service.
Staffing	It is proposed that there will be four staff, including the registered provider, employed in the service, all of whom have a childcare qualification and will work directly with the children.
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 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>
Acknowledgements	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.

(1)

(a) The registered provider will be the proposed designated person in charge and a deputy has been appointed.

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 proposed registered provider stated that the four adults will work directly with the sessional children. Two staff in each room from opening at 9am until closing at 12 noon.

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—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises 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:

(1) The requirement has been met.

(a) The care room was laid out with equipment and toys providing play and learning opportunities to enhance the learning needs of the proposed children. The equipment and toys were located on low-level shelving providing easy access, choice and independence. The children had access to a large spacious outdoor play area to the front of the service, located within the school grounds. The service will use the outdoor play area in rotation with the children in the classrooms attending the national school.

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- (b) There was a designated rest/quiet area with a soft padded floor mat, and a brightly coloured two-seater bench and a tent located nearby. There were bookshelves with age and stage appropriate books providing opportunities for language development.
- (2)
- (a) A secure outdoor play area was located at the front of the service where the proposed children will have access to a large artificial grass area and a long covered shed to facilitate outdoor play in all weathers.

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.
A healthy eating policy is in place and has been shared with the prospective parents/guardians who will be providing all food. The registered provider stated that bottled water will be stored in the service’s fridge and that children will have access to their own individual bottles at all times. The proposed registered provider intends to have alternative food available should a child not like their own snack or not have enough food in their lunch box.

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 has been met.

General Safety:

- The windows in the care and sanitary area were fitted with restrictors.
- Blind cords were secured with hooks and located at adult height.
- Handrails were in place on the steps leading to the carpark and outdoor play area, providing stability for the children who will potentially access these areas.
- Storage cupboards were anchored ensuring that they could not tip or fall onto a child.
- All electrical flexes were inaccessible in the care room.
- Cleaning agents and adult personal belongings were stored in a locked cupboard, out of the reach of children.
- Anti-febrile medication was available in its original container, stored in a basket on a high shelf in the care room.

Infection Control:

- Sinks and wash hand basins in the care room and sanitary areas were supplied with thermostatically controlled hot water, dispensing soap, dispensing paper towels and pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of paper waste.
- Pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of rubbish and recycle items.
- Windows in the care room and sanitary area were open allowing for the circulation of fresh air.

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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 proposed registered provider has a valid First Aid Responder (FAR) certificate and the deputy and third staff member both have paediatric first aid certificates. The proposed registered provider stated that they will be available at all times and that it is planned that all staff will receive FAR training in the coming weeks.
- (2) (a) (b) There was one first aid bag available on a high shelf in the service. It was well equipped and available throughout the inspection. The proposed registered provider stated that the first aid bag will be available when the children go outdoors.

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) A template was available for recording fire drills in the service. The proposed registered provider was aware that these are carried out monthly.
- (b) Records were available which indicated that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on 29 August 2023 and were due to be serviced. The registered provider had received written correspondence from the school principle stating that the fire extinguishers will have the annual service in the coming weeks. The smoke alarms were last tested on the 10/09/2024.
- (4)
- The notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed on a notice board in the service and the fire assembly point was visible in the outdoor play area.

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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.
Documentation was available to evidence that the service is insured. The certificate stated that the service is insured for 42 children on a sessional basis and 36 school age care children with an expiry date of 27 March 2025.

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 registered provider stated that the service was of sound and stable structure.

(b) The main entrance to the service, on the ground floor, and the intervening four sets of doors that lead to the care room, were operated with keypads which all had individual key codes. These measures ensured that no unauthorised adults could gain access to the service, or no child could leave the service unsupervised. The proposed outdoor play perimeter was secured with high metal fencing and high hedging. There were three sets of high metal gates with sliding bolts which the registered provider stated will be secured by a staff member prior to the proposed children playing in the area.

(c) The care room and sanitary areas were supplied with natural light from large windows and artificial light from covered fluorescent lights on the ceilings. The care room and the sanitary area have natural ventilation from the openable windows. Heating is supplied from gas radiators which have individual thermostats. The gas heating was last serviced on the 24/11/23. The room temperature was recorded at 21.9°C.

(d) The care room was clean and bright with a high ceiling. The toys and equipment were in good repair.

(e) There were two children’s toilets, and two wash hand basins located off the care room. Adult toilets and wash hand basins were available further along the corridor. The registered provider stated that there will be no children requiring nappy changing.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The proposed registered provider has ensured that there will be adequate floor space available for the work, play and movement of the proposed 21 children who will be attending the proposed sessional service.

(3) There was adequate space in the room to allow for 21 sessional children with a minimum of 1.818 m² of clear floor space available for each child attending the proposed sessional service.