

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024CC009

Name of Service: Bright Start ELC LTD

Address of Service: North Monastery Primary School,
North Monastery Road,
Cork.
T23 VY17

Email Address: Brighstart59@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Aleah Cronin

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

Proposed service type: Sessional

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,) Sessional service for 21 children aged from 3 years to 6 years of age. Hours of operation from 9.00 am until 12 noon.

Registered service: Registered Sessional Service 21 children.

Date of Inspection: 2 6 0 8 2 0 2 4

Inspection Undertaken by: E. Friel

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 13 Market Square, Mallow, Cork. P51 DD5Y

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Sessional Service 21 children.

Date of Registration: 28th 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	Bright Start ELC Ltd proposes to operate a private sessional service providing care and education for children aged 3 years to 6 years of age. It is proposed that the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme will operate between the hours of 9 am to 12 noon, Monday to Friday, term time only. 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 proposes to operate one classroom as a care room, which is located on the ground floor of North Monastery Primary School in Cork. There are two toilets, provided off the main care room, 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 Pre-School service.
Staffing	It is proposed that there will be three 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 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 proposed registered provider 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 three adults will work directly with the sessional children from opening at 9.00 am 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—
(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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) The care room was laid out in clearly defined areas with equipment and toys providing play and learning opportunities to enhance the learning needs of the

proposed children across all developmental areas. The equipment and toys were located on low-level shelving providing easy access, choice and independence. A number of resources providing opportunities for gross motor skills were available in the outdoor play area including a tricycle, wiggle car, scooters and hoppers. A covered sand box was available for sensory play and floor games including hop scotch were painted onto the artificial grass, providing additional opportunities for jumping and hopping.

(b) There was a designated rest/quiet area with soft furnishings including a large soft animal chair, and a brightly coloured two-seater bench with a tent located nearby. The proposed registered provider was awaiting delivery of two sleep mats, and two blankets were available with cushions. There were two book shelves nearby with age and stage appropriate books providing opportunities for language development while resting.

(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. The children will also have shared access to an indoor hall, if required.

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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.

A healthy eating policy is in place and has been shared with the prospective parents/guardians who will be providing all food. Appropriate crockery is currently available, and cutlery has been ordered for use at meal times. 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, from a shelf above the cubby house. 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 partially met.

General Safety:

- The five windows in the care and sanitary area were fitted with restrictors.
- Blind cords were secured with hooks and located at adult height.
- Hand rails 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.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-febrile medication was available in its original container, stored in a basket on a high shelf in the care room. <p>Infection Control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Cubby houses were available to store children’s bags and hooks were also available to store children’s coats, off the floor area. • Windows in the care room and sanitary area were open allowing for the circulation of fresh air.
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) There were several electrical cables protruding from a wall into a large hole in the ground at the ground floor entrance door to the building, posing a safety risk to children and adults waiting to gain entry. (2) Two fire extinguishers on the wall, opposite the entry door to the care room, were not anchored securely on the wall. These posed a safety risk should they fall on top of a passing child. (3) Two water butts, one of which was filled with water from the overhead gutters, were missing lids posing a safety risk should a child gain access to the water butt. (4) The artificial grass, on the outdoor play area, was observed to have general rubbish around the edges including cigarette butts, plastic bottle tops and broken pieces of plastic posing safety hazards to the children. (5) Two pieces of splintered wood were accessible to children on the footpath from the service to the outdoor play area, posing a safety risk of accidental contact with the splintered wood.
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>The following statements and photographic evidence were received from the proposed registered provider:</p>

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	<p>(1) The electrical wires were covered with a steel box and the hole in the ground has been filled in with tarmac. Photographic evidence was received in the office of the inspectorate.</p> <p>(2) The two fire extinguishers have been secured with a wooden shelf. Photographic evidence was received in the office of the inspectorate.</p> <p>(3) The two lids have been replaced on the two water butts and the children will not have access to the water. A photograph of the two lids on both water butts was received in the office of the inspectorate.</p> <p>(4) General rubbish has been removed and the artificial grass has been thoroughly cleaned. Photographs of the cleaned artificial grass with all rubbish removed was received in the office of the inspectorate.</p> <p>(5) The two lengths of splintered wood were removed. A photograph of the two lengths of wood removed from the footpath was received in the office of the inspectorate.</p>
Summary Comment:	The actions taken by the proposed registered provider have addressed the outstanding requirements under Regulation 23.

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 the two additional staff members will avail of FAR training in September 2024.
- (2)

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	<p>(a) (b) There were two first aid bag/boxes available on a high shelf in the service. Both were 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.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(a) A template was available for recording fire drills in the service. The proposed registered provider was aware that these are carried out on a monthly basis.</p> <p>(b) Records were available which indicated that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on 29 August 2023 and the smoke alarms on 16 July 2024.</p> <p>(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.</p>
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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 22 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 five large windows and artificial light from six covered fluorescent lights on the

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	<p>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 room temperature was recorded at 21.9°C.</p> <p>(d) The care room had recently been repainted along with the wooden floor which had been resanded, giving the room a clean, bright and well-maintained appearance. The toys and equipment were new both indoors and outdoors.</p> <p>(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.</p>
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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.
- (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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(3) While the registered provider submitted a request for 22 sessional children to be accommodated, the total floor space of 37.5 m² care room allows for 21 sessional children with a minimum of 1.818 m² of clear floor space available for each child attending the proposed sessional service.</p>
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