

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

**Tusla I.D:** TU2024CC011

**Name of Service:** Respond Early Years Service, Millpark

**Address of Service:** Millpark, Redforge Road, Blackpool, Cork.

**Email Address:** RespondEYSMillpark@respond.ie

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Lisa O' Rourke

<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>	

**Proposed service type:** Part time, sessional

**Proposed Number of Children:** 22

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection**  
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)  
Part time service for 22 children, aged 2 to 6 years.  
Hours of operation from 9.00am to 2.00pm, Monday to Friday, over 51 weeks of the year.

**Registered service:**

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	3	1	2	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection Undertaken by:** D Prendergast

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:**  
Early Years Inspectorate  
Administration Building  
St Mary's Health Campus  
Gurranabraher  
Cork

<b>Rationale for Inspection</b>
<b>Proposed New Service</b>

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

**Registration Status:** Part time service for 22 children.

**Date of Registration:** 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

### 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>	Respond Early Years Service, Millpark proposes to offer a part time service, for children aged two to six years. This will include children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, which is proposed to be facilitated from 9.00am to 12.00pm, over 38 weeks of the year. Daily opening hours are proposed to be from 9.00am to 2.00pm.
<b>Premises</b>	It is proposed that this early years service will be provided from the ground floor of a two storey building, which is situated in a residential area. It consists of one care room, with adjoining children's sanitary facilities, a kitchen, an office and a separate staff sanitary facility.
<b>Staffing</b>	It is proposed that three staff members will be employed at the setting and will be working directly with the children. The registered provider and the regional manager will not be based at the service.
<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 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>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the regional manager and the proposed person in charge, who were present on the day of the inspection.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

### 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:

(1)(a)

A proposed person in charge has been assigned to the service and a notice confirming this information is displayed in the entrance area. Management are currently recruiting for a deputy and will ensure that this role is fulfilled before the service is in operation.

### 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) Three staff members are proposed to work with 22 children, aged two to six years, during the sessional service. Some of these children will remain at the setting to attend part time care. The regional manager has provided assurances that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children attending part time care, depending on the number and age range of children availing of said service. The regional manager has also confirmed that there will be a minimum of two adults on the premises at all times, as per the requirement.

### 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.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(a) The clearly defined interest areas within the care room are equipped with relevant, age and stage appropriate materials. Play resources are readily accessible to children, displayed at their eye level and are maintained in good working order.</p> <p>(b) The designated rest area is furnished with a large vinyl sofa, cushions, a colourful floor mat and an adjacent, well-stocked bookshelf.</p> <p>Five foldable sleep mats are held in storage, for children who may require sleep while attending the service. Suitable linen for these mats has been ordered and delivery is awaited.</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>(a) The designated outdoor play environment of the proposed service is available on the premises and is accessible via the main care room. A shock absorbing surface is provided in the sheltered area, with grass and a concrete footpath available in the main play space. Equipment includes wall mounted blackboards, tuff trays, a wooden kitchen and ride on toys.</p>
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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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>A Healthy Eating policy is in place. Food for the children’s mealtimes will be provided by their parents or guardians. Before the mid-morning snack is served, perishables will be stored in the refrigerator, located in the adjoining kitchen. Suitable crockery and cutlery are available for use by the children, during their snack breaks. A jug of water and cups will be accessible on a low-level table, in the care room.</p>
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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 has been met.

#### General safety:

- First aid boxes are positioned out of reach of children; one is located on a high-level shelf and a second is stored in the adjoining kitchen.
- There is safe storage of cleaning agents and equipment.
- Fire exit signage is illuminated and fire exits are maintained free from obstruction.
- Firefighting equipment is tethered.
- Visibility strips are fitted to the low lying glass panels in the care room.
- The proposed person in charge has advised that if a child requires medication, it will be securely stored in the kitchen and inaccessible to children.

#### Infection control:

- In both sanitary facilities, liquid soap, paper towels and lidded, pedal-operated bins are provided at the wash hand basins. Paper towel dispensers have been ordered to store the paper towels.
- Disposable aprons and single use gloves are available for nappy changing procedures and a nappy disposal bin is in place.

### 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) Evidence of a certificate in First Aid Responder (FAR) training is available in respect of one of the proposed staff members. The certificate is valid until 26 July 2025.
- (2)
- (a) An adequately stocked first aid box is safely stored in the care room, in a location that is easily accessible to adults and out of reach of children. A second first aid

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

	<p>box is located in the kitchen.</p> <p>(b) First aid supplies will be available to children at all times, throughout the hours of operation.</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 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(a) Provision is in place to record monthly fire drills at the service.</p> <p>(b) A list of the number and type of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms is on file. According to the documentation available, the fire alarm system was tested on 19 August 2024 and the firefighting equipment was also checked in August 2024.</p> <p>(4) A notice, outlining the steps to be taken in the event of a fire, is displayed in the main care room. There is clear signage denoting the designated assembly point.</p>
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### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>A record of insurance cover for a maximum of 22 children, with an expiration date of 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, is available.</p>
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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 requirement has been met.

- (a) Based on a visual assessment, the premises appears to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The main entrance door is key locked from the exterior and the door to the care room is key pad operated. The outdoor play space is enclosed by block walls and a secured gate. These security measures will reduce the risk of unauthorised access and the risk of a child exiting the premises, while unsupervised. Entry to the kitchen is also key pad operated, which will prevent the children from gaining unsupervised access.
- (c)
  - There is a source of natural light in the care room, through windows and glass door panels. This is complimented with artificial, LED lighting.
  - An air to water heating system is in place. The air temperature in the care room was measured at 19.5°C and the air temperature taken in the children’s sanitary facility was 20.1°C.
  - In the main playroom, there are four openable windows. Mechanical ventilation is provided in the sanitary facilities.
- (d) A programme of cleaning, which outlines the area and items to be cleaned and the frequency of cleaning, is in place. The service presented in a clean and hygienic condition. All examined play materials were safe and in good working order.
- (e) There are sufficient sanitary facilities available for the proposed number of children attending the service. There are two children’s toilets, with two adjacent wash hand basins. A staff toilet and wash hand basin are also provided, along with a wall mounted nappy changing unit, which is suitable for children aged up to three and a half years.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

### 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) There is sufficient clear floor space available in the care room, for the proposed 22 children to engage with materials, participate in activities and move freely within the environment.
- (2) A part time service is proposed for up to 22 children, aged 2 to 6 years and the care room was measured at 53.29m<sup>2</sup>.
- (4) It is proposed that a sessional and a part time service will be contemporaneously provided. The available space within the care room allows for each of the proposed 22 children to have a minimum of 1.818 square meters of clear floor space during the sessional period.