

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2024CE001

Name of Service Little Seedlings Cratloe Preschool and Childcare

Address of Service:

Ballintea South
Cratloe
Clare
V95TWR2

Email Address: littleseedlingscratloe@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Kiran Browne

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:

Proposed change of service type from childminder to sessional and full day care.

Proposed increase to two staff members.

Proposed hours of operation 07:00 to 18:00.

Proposed Number of Children: Proposed increase to eleven preschool children.

Recommended Change Following Inspection:

Provision of a sessional and full day care service.

Increase to eleven preschool children

Increase to two staff members

Hours of operation from 07:00 to 18:00

Registered change: Change in Service Type from Childminding to Full Day Care & Sessional & Change in Number of Children from 5 to 11.

Date of Inspection:

2	3	0	7	2	0	2	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Inspection undertaken by: A. McCarthy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



	Tusla Child and Family Agency
	Primary Care Centre
	Station Road
	Ennis
	County Clare.

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care & Sessional for 11 children
Date of Registration	12th August 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	Little Seedlings Cratloe Preschool and Childcare is operated by an independent provider located in a rural area in Cratloe, County Clare. The service proposes to change from a childminding service to operate as a sessional and full day care service. Care and education will be provided Monday and Friday from 08:00 to 18:00.
Premises	The proposed service is located in the owner's private residence. The care of the children will take place predominantly in one large open plan care room on the ground floor. A sleep room and sanitary facilities for the children and adults are located adjacent to the care room. The outdoor area is located at the rear of the service.
Staffing	The registered provider will work directly with the children alongside a second adult.
Methodology	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

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>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	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, who was 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:	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The registered provider confirmed that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.</p>
-------------------------	---

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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)—*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)

The registered provider stated that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children.

(8)(a)

The registered provider confirmed that more than two adults will be working in the service at all times. The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults are available at all times.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)

Both the indoor and outdoor environment was adequately resourced for the proposed number of children that would be attending the service. Space was available where the children could freely move and play.

Indoor environment:

The proposed pre-school room was spacious and bright and laid out with age and stage appropriate, tables and chairs. The room was laid out with an art station, a kitchen unit, a sensory area and a dress up section. Low level shelving units were available with containers that included puzzles, animal's, roads, magnetics, figurines, dinosaurs, farm equipment and animals, water play utensils, wooden equipment and playdough. A relaxation area was available with soft furnishings that included a Teepee, a sofa bed and an armchair with an adjacent shelving area with a variety of reading materials.

Outdoor area:

The outdoor area consisted of a natural grass surface. The perimeter was secured by fencing and a gate. Areas of interest included: a mud kitchen, tyres, goalposts and footballs, tractors, a sand area, and a wooden activity frame with swings, slide and

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

climbing frame. A low-level wooden bench is available for children to use. The registered provider confirmed that the outdoor area is under further development.

(b)

An adequate area was available for children to take a rest during the day. This area included an armchair, a sofa bed and a Teepee.

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 was met.

The registered provider demonstrated that adequate, nutritious and varied food and drink will be available for the proposed number of children attending the pre-school service. The registered provider confirmed that parents will provide the children's lunches and beverages for the children attending on a sessional basis. An external food company will provide the hot lunches on a daily basis for children attending on a full day care basis. The registered provider had a three-week menu plan demonstrating the meals and snacks provided in the service. A healthy eating policy was available to inform staff and parents of the service's procedure.

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 was met.

- Internal and external access to the service was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the proposed childminding service.
- Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children proposed to attend the service.
- Electric items were inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a locked cupboard and on high shelving out of the reach of children making them inaccessible to the children.
- Fire exit routes and the passageways were clear of all obstructions in the event of an emergency.

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 was met.

(1)

The registered provider held an up-to-date record of First Aid Response training.

(2)(a)(b)

A first aid box was suitably equipped and stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the care room for use in the event of an emergency.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 was met.

(1)(a)

A fire drill template was available in the service. The registered provider confirmed that a fire drill would take place monthly.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system took place in July 2024.

(4)

A fire action notice was available demonstrating the procedures 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 was met.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration office prior to this inspection. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 was met.

(a)

Sound and Stable Structure:

The proposed sessional/full day care service is located in a section of a newly built premises and appears visually to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

Safe and Secure:

The internal and external entry points were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.

(c)

Lighting:

The service was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating:

The service was heated by means of a heat recovery/air to water under floor heating system. The ambient temperatures of the care room and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°Celsius on the day of inspection. The registered provider was aware of the safe sleep ambient temperature range of 16-20 °Celsius.

Ventilation:

Natural and an internal means of ventilation is available in the care room, the sleep room and sanitary facility; this was provided by means of openable windows and vents in the ceiling.

(d)

Cleaned, Maintained and Repaired:

The care room, sleeping area, sanitary facility and equipment within were cleaned and maintained in good condition.

(e)

Sanitary Facilities:

On the ground floor there is a sanitary facility accommodating a nappy changing unit, a toilet, a wash hand basin with running warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels and lined and lidded bin. The adult toilet is located adjacent to the care room on the ground floor.

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 was met.

(1)

The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the preschool service to support the children to freely play and move within the environment.

(2)

The registered provider ensured that the minimum amount of clear floor space was available for the proposed provision of full day care for eleven preschool children. The total available floor space included 36.8 m².

(3)

The registered provider ensured that a minimum of 1.818 m² of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service. The care room can accommodate twenty preschool children.