

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024CE001
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Name of Service:	Little Seedlings Cratloe Preschool and Childcare
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Address of Service:	Ballintlea South, Cratloe, County Clare.
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Email Address:	littleseedlingscratloe@gmail.com
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Kiran Browne
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type:	Childminder
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Proposed Number of Children:	5
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection:	Childminder, maximum of five children, children ranging in age from three months to six years; Hours of operation 07:00 to 18:00.
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Registered service:	Registered Childminder for 5 Children
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Date of Inspection:	1	7	0	4	2	0	2	3
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Inspection Undertaken by:	Á. McCarthy
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, County Clare.
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Childminder for 5 Children
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Date of Registration:	26 th January 2023
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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	Little Seedlings Cratloe Preschool and Childcare is a proposed private childminding service that is located in the owners domestic dwelling. The service is located in a rural area in Cratloe, County Clare and proposes to operate from 07:00 to 18.00 Monday and Friday.
Premises	The proposed service is located in the childminder'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 a sanitary facility for the children is located adjacent to the care room. The outdoor area is located at the rear of the service.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider will work directly with the children. Two adults are available within close distance to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency.
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 childminder who was present on the 17 th April 2023.

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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 was met.

(1)(a)

The proposed childminder will be the designated person in charge at all times. A contact person who is familiar with the service is available within close distance to assist the proposed childminder in the event of an emergency.

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

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)

The proposed childminder stated that the ratio of one adult supervising five children attending the proposed childminding service will be maintained at all times.

(8)(b)

The proposed childminder confirmed that two emergency contacts that are familiar with the childminders dwelling, will be available within close distance of the service.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 12 Childminders

(1) A childminder shall ensure that—

- (a) there are no more than 5 pre-school children in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children,*
- (b) subject to paragraph (2), there are no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children, and*
- (c) there is a working telephone on the premises.*

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)

(a)

The proposed childminder stated that no more than five children will be attending the child-minding service.

(b)

The proposed childminder stated that no more than two children under the age of 15 months will be in attendance including the childminders child.

(c)

On the 17th of April 2023 the proposed childminder had access to a working telephone.

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—

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(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 was met.

(1)(a)

The care room was bright and spacious and was well equipped with play materials and equipment. The room was laid out with two low-level tables and chairs, areas of interest, a wooden kitchen, a rest area, two low level wooden units with drawers. The units included a large quantity of educational and play equipment, these were all readily accessible for children. The outdoor play area is secured by a wooden fence and gate and the large expansive area is currently under development.

(b)

A rest area was available in the care room consisting of a couch and a floor mat should the children want to rest or relax. Two standard cots are available for the babies sleep periods. The childminder provided a safe sleep policy which demonstrated that sleeping children's position, colour and breathing will be checked and recorded every ten minutes.

(2)(a)

The outdoor area is located to the rear of the domestic dwelling and is enclosed by a wooden fence and secured by gated access. The outdoor area included a wooden framed unit with two swings and a slide climbing frame; a mud kitchen; a slide for toddlers and a goalpost with a football.

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 was met.

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A weekly menu was available demonstrating adequate and nutritious food that would be provided for the children. Water and milk will be offered drinks at mealtime and the children's water containers will be available in an accessible area in the care room throughout the day. The proposed childminding service will be offering healthy treats only and will be adhering to the service's healthy eating policy.

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.

(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.

Requirement not met:

The requirement was not met.

(1)

A record of First Aid Responder training was not available for the proposed childminder.

Response from Provider:

The registered provider provided the following response:

A First Aid Responder training course is now completed.

Summary Comment:

The requirement was met.

Written confirmation was provided to the Inspectorate demonstrating that the proposed childminder had completed First Aid Responder training.

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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 was not met.

Requirement not met:

- (1)
- (a)
- A template record for completion of fire drills was not available.
- (b)
- A record for the maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system were not available.
- (4)
- A fire action notice was not displayed in the service demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Response from Provider:

- The registered provider provided the following response and supporting evidence:
- (1)
- (a)
- A template record for completion of fire drills is now available. A copy of the fire drill template was submitted to the inspectorate.
- (b)
- A copy of a fire equipment and smoke alarm system maintenance record and the fire equipment that is now available was submitted to the inspectorate.
- (4)

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	A copy the fire action notice and a photograph the location of the fire action notice was submitted to the inspectorate.
Summary Comment:	Based on the proposed childminders response and supporting evidence the requirements are met under Regulation 26.

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. Written confirmation was provided to the Inspectorate demonstrating adequate insurance cover for five children attending the proposed childminding service.
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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 was met. (a) Sound and Stable Structure:
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The proposed childminding service is located in a newly built premises and appears to 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 proposed childminding service was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating:

The proposed childminding 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:

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	<p>The care room, sleeping area, sanitary facility and equipment within were cleaned and maintained in good condition.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>Sanitary Facilities:</p> <p>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.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements	
<i>(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.</i>	
Requirement met:	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>The proposed childminding service ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the domestic dwelling to support the children to freely play and move within the childminding environment.</p>