

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024DL004

Name of Service: Superstars Childcare

Address of Service: Mountcharles Community Centre, Station Rd
Mountcharles, Donegal, F94 DFN8

Email Address: orlamcdowell@hotmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Orla McDowell

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 service operating from 09:30am to 12:30 for a maximum of 22 preschool children.

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,) Approved sessional service operating for a maximum of 22 preschool children.

Registered service: Registered for a Sessional Service for 22 Children

Date of Inspection:

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Inspection Undertaken by: L Costello

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate,
TUSLA Child & Family Agency,
Markievicz House,
Barrack St,
Sligo,
F91 XC84

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered for a Sessional Service for 22 Children

Date of Registration: 10th September 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	The proposed service will operate from a large open plan room in a community hall. The service proposes to operate a sessional preschool service between the hours of 09:30 and 12:30, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year.
Premises	The proposed service is located in a shared use room in a community hall on the outskirts of Mountcharles. The proposed service has sanitary accommodation and a designated kitchen. Access to the service is by a bell entry system
Staffing	It is proposed initially that the person in charge will operate the service single handedly and there is designated emergency person who is familiar with the service available if required.
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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and/or person in charge who were 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) (a)

The service has a designated person in charge and an emergency contact person to support when required.

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)—

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider will work directly with the preschool children and is aware that there is an adequate number of adults working with the preschool children.

(8) (c)

A second familiar person is available to provide assistance to the person in charge and is in close proximity to assist the person in charge in case of an emergency.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) (a)
 The playroom is designed and arranged to maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter, divided into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support the proposed children’s play, development and learning.
 Interest areas included a home corner with a variety of real and play home and kitchen equipment. An arts and crafts area resourced with paints, colours, materials and easels. A construction area with building blocks, cars, trucks and machinery. Tabletop activities for the development of fine motor skills including pin boards, puzzles and jigsaws. A library area was available resourced with a variety of books to promote language development.
 The play equipment in the playroom was stored on low-level shelving and or on the ground and was thereby readily accessible to the proposed pre-school children.

(b)
 A rest area was provided in the corner of the room with soft matting and cushions providing a comfortable area for the proposed children to rest or opt out of an activity.

(2)
 A sheltered outdoor area was located beside the playroom. This area was equipped with playhouses, sand tables, water table and a mud kitchen.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

All snacks are provided from home in line with the service healthy eating policy. A fridge located in the preschool room stores all perishable items sent in from home.

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:

This requirement has been met.

The following measures were noted on the day of inspection to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children and to ensure that the environment was safe.

- All doors were secure to ensure no unauthorised entry to the service and to prevent children exiting unsupervised.
- Emergency fire doors remained unobstructed throughout the inspection.
- Toys and play equipment were in good condition and free from sharp edges and pinch points.
- All flexes and cables were secure.
- Cleaning products were stored away from the preschool child.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available for the disposal of waste throughout the service.
- The outdoor was secure with wooden fencing and a secure gate.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) The person in charge is trained in first aid responder with a refresher date of the 27th of May 2025.

(2)(a) (b)

A first aid box is available for the preschool children and located in a conspicuous location in the preschool.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) (a) (b)

It is proposed that monthly fire drills will take place in the service and a template for recording was available.

A record of all fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms is available in the premises.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures are clearly displayed on the wall in the preschool room.

The assembly point is located in the carpark.

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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:

This requirement has been met. The service is adequately insured from the **28/03/2024 To 27/03/2025.**

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:

This requirement has been met.

(a) From a superficial visual inspection, the premises appeared of sound and stable structure.

(b) The playrooms and the outdoor play areas were safe and secure.

(c) There was natural lighting in the playroom with windows on outer walls. This was supplemented by artificial lights. The proposed playroom was well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors. The oil heating system had a thermostatically controlled thermostat in the playroom to allow the recommended room temperature to be maintained between 18°C and 22°C. On the day of inspection, the temperatures of the playroom was recorded at 18.5°C The warm water in the sanitary area and the playroom was maintained at a safe temperature of between 29 - 35°C and the person in charge advised that heat valves in place ensured the water would be no greater than 43°C.

(d) In the proposed playroom, the play and work equipment were in good repair.

Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from the proposed children in the storage areas. From observation, the furnished playroom was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

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(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided in the sanitary area adjacent to the preschool room. Three toilets and two wash hand basins were provided for use by the preschool child. Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in designated dispensers were within easy access to the pre-school children in the sanitary area.

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:

This requirement is met.

(1) The registered provider has ensured that an adequate clear floor space is available for preschool children to work rest and play.

(3)

The large, shared community playroom is sectioned off to ensure an adequate clear floor space is available for the preschool child. The preschool room measured 85.89m² which provides adequate clear floor space for the proposed 22 preschool children.