

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024DR003
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Name of Service:	Chatterbox Preschool and The Afterschool Club
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Address of Service:	Block C, Beech Park, Cabinteely, Dublin 18
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Email Address:	beechpark@chatterboxchildcare.ie
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Kerrylee Hempenstall
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type:	Sessional Service
Proposed Number of Children:	60 children aged 3 to 6 years
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	To operate between 9.00am and 12.00pm Monday to Friday, 38 weeks per year. To accommodate 47 children on a sessional basis aged 3 to 6 years based on the space available as outlined under regulation 30. (The provider had proposed to accommodate 60 children).
Registered service:	Registered Sessional Service for 47 children.

Date of Inspection:	0	5	0	7	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by:	F Carty
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter Kilmainham, Dublin 8
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service 47 children.
Date of Registration:	07 th 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	Chatterbox Preschool and Afterschool Club is a proposed private sessional service located within a residential housing estate in Cabinteely, South County Dublin. The applicant intends to operate the service from 9.00am to 12.00pm each weekday for 38 weeks a year. This service is one of 5 services operated by the applicant. The service currently offers a school age service in the same premises.
Premises	The two-storey purpose built building comprises of an entrance hall, two offices, 3 care rooms, a storage room, a kitchen/staff room and sanitary accommodation for children, staff and an accessible toilet. An outdoor play area is available to the front of the building. Off road parking is provided at the front of the building.
Staffing	The preschool service will be initially staffed by 3 staff comprising of 2 staff who will work in designated care room and a manager, the applicant will also be onsite during the initial operating phase. All childcare staff will have a qualification at a minimum level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications.
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 and 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) A manager is employed to work in the service on a full time basis. Garda vetting obtained on the 27th February 2024 was available in respect of this person. An additional staff member is proposed to deputise in the absence of this person.

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) A total of 2 staff will initially be employed to work directly with the preschool children in one care room. An additional member of staff will be available to assist where necessary.

Additional staff will be recruited when the remaining care rooms open.

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:

(1) (a) All of the care rooms are bright, and the walls are decorated with colourful posters. All care rooms are fully equipped with a range of play materials and equipment suitable to the age and stage of the children attending each room. Low level furniture and shelving were available containing materials for creative and imaginative play. These included designated interest areas including a home corner, and small world play accessible to the children at their level.

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	<p>(b) A rest area with books was available in each care room to allow the children attending on a sessional basis to take time out and rest if required.</p> <p>(2) (a) An outdoor play area is available to the front of the building. The area had a climbing frame with slide, sand play and a football net and balls. The area was covered with artificial grass covering.</p> <p>High level perimeter fencing surrounded the outdoor area and gates which led to the area outside of the premises at each end of the outdoor area contained a high-level lock which only allowed authorised people gain access or leave the premises.</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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The parents or guardians of the children attending the service will provide all snacks. A Healthy Eating Policy is in place.

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.

External doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The two gates in the outdoor areas were suitably secured with high level locks. The emergency exit doors were unobstructed. There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins throughout the service. Cleaning schedules are in place. Cleaning materials were stored safely. The kitchen was inaccessible to children.

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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 applicant confirmed that there will be always 2 staff members onsite who have current certification in first aid responder training.

(2)(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were provided in the service. They were clearly identifiable and easily accessible.

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) The applicant has indicated that fire drills are carried out on a monthly basis.
(b) There was a record available relating to the number and type of fire fighting equipment and the fire detection and alarm system. A service took place on the 2nd October 2023.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed conspicuously throughout the premises. The fire assembly point was identified.

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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.

Insurance cover was submitted to the registration office which confirmed that the service has cover for a maximum of 47 pre-school children from 12/07/2024 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:

The requirement has been met.

(a) The service is located in a ground floor of a block of apartments. The applicant confirmed that she had no knowledge of any structural defects.

(b) The service was adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry.

(c) The service was adequately lit, heated and ventilated. The lighting was provided by natural light leading from openable windows supplemented with ceiling light fittings with covers. The rooms were fitted with built in air conditioning units which provided thermostatically controlled heat and the room temperature was maintained between 18-22°C. The sanitary facilities were ventilated by mechanical means of ventilation.

(d) Cleaning schedules were in place and the premises was maintained in a clean condition.

(e) The sanitary facilities in the service were adequately equipped with wash hand basins and toilets for the number of adults and children that will be in attendance. There were 6 toilets and wash hand basins available for children, 1 toilet and wash hand basin available for adults and 1 nappy changing unit which was located in a disabled access toilet within the service. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water was available in all hand wash sinks.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children attending the service as demonstrated below:

(3)

Room	Bondi Room	Manly Room	Narrawallee Room
Clear Floor Space	28.99 sqm	31.52 sqm	27.04 sqm
Proposed Age Range	3 – 6 years	3 – 6 years	3 – 6 years

The premises can accommodate a total number of 47 pre-school children aged from 3 to 6 years on a sessional basis.