

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024DS001
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Name of Service:	Nexus Preschool
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Address of Service:	Kilmashogue, The Cresnet, Two Oaks, Knocklyon, Dublin 16
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Email Address:	kerrylee@nexusedu.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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type:	Part Time and Sessional
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Proposed Number of Children:	66
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection:	The service proposes to accommodate 24 children, age 3 – 6 years on a part time basis and 42 children, aged 2 years 8 months to 6 years on a sessional basis, with a combined total of 66.
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Registered service:	Registered Part Time and Sessional Service for 66 Children
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Date of Inspection:	0	6	0	6	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by:	E Hosford and Á Dunne
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time & Sessional Service for 66 Children
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Date of Registration:	13 th June 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	Nexus Preschool propose to operate a service to provide sessional and part time care to children aged between 2 to 6 years. The proposed service will operate a part time service in the morning from 9am to 1pm and in the afternoon from 1.30pm to 5.30pm providing support to children aged 3 to 6 years with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A sessional service will also be offered to children from age 2 years 8 months to 6 years, in the morning from 8.45am to 11.45am and in the afternoon from 12.15pm to 3.15pm, Monday to Friday.
Premises	The service proposes to operate from a residential complex ground floor premises in a residential area in Knocklyon, Dublin 16. It consists of six care rooms, four ASD care rooms for children with Autism – Cherry Blossom room, Acorn room, Chestnut room and the Maple room, two ECCE sessional care rooms – Ash room and Elm room, an occupational therapy room and a sensory room for use by the children as needed, sanitary facilities for staff and children, a staff room, a staff office, a staff cloakroom, two administration offices and a service kitchen is provided for the preparation of meals if required. An enclosed outdoor area is situated to the rear and side of the building.
Staffing	The service proposes to initially employ 24 staff to include, the registered provider, the designated person in charge, 20 childcare staff and two staff employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). The registered provider and the designated person in charge will not be assigned to a care room but will be available to assist if required.
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 four themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the Child, Safety and Premises. 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.
Acknowledgement	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and the proposed designated 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named staff member was available to deputise as 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.

Requirement met:

(1) The registered provider has proposed that the following number of adults will be working directly with the children attending the service.

Room Name	Number of Adults	Number and age profile of children.
Cherry Blossom room	4	6 Children part time (3 - 6 years)
Acorn room	4	6 Children part time (3 - 6 years)
Chestnut room	4	6 Children part time (3 - 6 years)
Maple room	4	6 Children part time (3 - 6 years)
Ash room	3	20 Children (2 years 8 months -6 years) ECCE Sessional
Elm room	3	22 Children (2 years 8 months -6 years) ECCE Sessional
Total	22	66

Calculated as per Schedule 6 Adult: Child Ratios Part 1- Part-time day and Part 2 - ECCE sessional care service.

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) The requirement has been met.

The proposed four ASD care rooms, two ECCE sessional rooms, the Occupational therapy room and the Sensory room, are all bright with clear floor space available to enable children to explore their environment. All care rooms are fully equipped with a range of play materials and equipment suitable and accessible to the age and stage of development of the children attending each room. Low level furniture and shelving are available containing materials for free play, constructive play, creative play and imaginative play. These included designated interest areas including a home corner, sensory play areas and small world play areas accessible to the children at their level.

(b) A rest area with a low bed, soft floor mats and books are available in each care room.

(2)(a) The outdoor area provided on the premises, is secure and enclosed with wooden fencing and key coded locked gates. The area which is easily accessible from the preschool service has loose bark surface. Suitable play equipment is available for example – wooden seesaw, balance beam, sit on rocker, and a swing. There are no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area.

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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.
Parents will provide the food that children will eat while attending the service. Additional snack foods such as crackers and fruit will be available if a child is hungry.
The service has a healthy eating policy in place, and they work with parents and children to encourage healthy options when possible. Children will have access to drinks throughout the session.

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.

- The main entrance door which leads into the service is appropriately secured with an entry buzzer to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- The play materials and equipment in the service are stored on stable-based shelving units. The play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the proposed children.
- The tables and chairs in the care room that are used for tabletop activities and mealtimes are the appropriate height for the age of children accommodated in the room.
- A refrigerator is available in each care room to store children’s perishable food items from home on arrival to the service.
- The emergency exit doors of the service are unobstructed.
- The outdoor area is suitably secured with wooden fencing and two secure key coded gates therefore preventing a child from exiting the area and preventing unauthorised access to the service.
- All storage of waste both indoors and outdoors is inaccessible to the children.
- A system is available for the safe storage of cleaning agents and equipment.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The proposed registered provider and the proposed designated person in charge had First Aid Responder certificates available.

(2)(a) Four first aid boxes were suitably equipped and safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the service.

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 has been met.

(1)

(a) A template is available to record fire drills that take place in the service.

(b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service. Firefighting equipment was serviced on the 28 May 2024 and smoke detection on the 23 April 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the entrance hall and each care room of the premises. Clearly displayed fire assembly notices are available outside of the service to enable staff and children to identify both the route to the fire assembly point and the fire assembly point.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

The service has adequate insurance to cover 68 children in part time care from the 2 April 2024 to 27 March 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) During the inspection it was observed that the walls, flooring, doors, and windows are suitably maintained, and inspectors did not identify any safety issues or concerns.

(b) The entrance door to the service is adequately secured with an electric buzzer system to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.

(c) Each care room has windows which provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights are fitted with shatter proof coverings.

Heating and ventilation are provided by an air-conditioning system throughout the service.

The temperature of the care rooms was recorded between 18.8°C and 19.4°C on the day of inspection.

The sanitary facilities and nappy changing areas are fitted with mechanical ventilation systems to extract stale air.

(d) The care rooms are in a clean condition. A cleaning schedule is available in the care rooms and sanitary facilities to ensure regular cleaning of the service.

(e) All of the sanitary facilities are fitted with mechanical ventilation systems.

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Warm water not exceeding 43°C, liquid soap and paper towel dispensers are provided in all sanitary facilities and care rooms.
Separate lidded pedal bins are provided for the disposal of paper hand towels and one use cloth towels .
Staff members use separate sanitary facilities to include a disabled toilet with a wash hand basin and three further toilets with three wash hand basins throughout the service.
One nappy changing unit for use by the children is present in the disabled toilet area.
There are sufficient sanitary facilities available in the service to accommodate the number and age profile of the children which the Registered Provider proposes to attend.
The sanitary facilities in the service comprise of the following.

Room Name	Facilities available
Cherry Blossom room	1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin
Acorn room	1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin
Chestnut room	1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin
Maple Room	1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin
Ash Room	1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin
Elm Room	2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins
Disability Toilet	1 nappy changing mat and 1 wash hand basin.
Total	7 toilets and 8 Wash hand basins 1 nappy Changing mat

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.
- (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).
- (5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the service.

(2) The table below illustrates that the minimum clear floor space is available for the proposed 24 children aged from 2- 6 years proposed to attend on a part time care basis and the proposed 42 children aged from 2 years 8 months to 6 years proposed to attend on a sessional basis.

Room Name	Proposed number of children and age	*Clear Floor Space available as per service	Floor space required per child	Floor space available as measured by inspectors and number of children that can be facilitated in rooms
Cherry Blossom Room	6 Children (3 – 6 years)	28.2 sqm	2.3 sqm per child	30.38 sqm 6 Children (Part time) (3 -6 years)
Acorn Room	6 Children (3 – 6 years)	28.5 sqm	2.3 sqm per child	30.165 sqm 6 Children (Part time) (3-6 years)
Chestnut room	6 Children (3 – 6 years)	25.6 sqm	2.3 sqm per child	27.9 sqm 6 Children (Part time) (3-6 years)

	Maple room	6 Children (3 – 6 years)	28.5sqm	2.3 sqm per child	31.25 sqm 6 Children (Part time) (3-6 years)
	Ash room	20 Children (2 years 8 months to 6 years)	41.7 sqm	1.818 sqm per child sessional	37.02 sqm 20 Children (Sessional (2 years 8 months to 6 years)
	Elm room	22 Children (2 years 8 months to 6 years)	40.8 sqm	1.818 sqm per child sessional	41.0 sqm 22 Children (Sessional (2 years 8 months to 6 years)
	Occupational Therapy Room	(2 years 8 months to 6 years)	26.6 sqm	2.3 sqm per child	27.0sqm
	Sensory room	(2 years 8 months to 6 years)	26.7 sqm	2.3 sqm per child	27.1 sqm