

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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| <b>Tusla I.D:</b> | TU2024DS004 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Footprints Early Years Ltd |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | Saint Finian's Community Hall<br>Main Street Upper<br>Dublin 22<br>D22Y5T7 |
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| <b>Email Address:</b> | <a href="mailto:racheal@footprintsearlyyears.ie">racheal@footprintsearlyyears.ie</a> |
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| <b>Name of Proposed Registered Provider:</b> | Racheal Govan |
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| <b>Type of Proposed Service:</b> | <b>Full Day Care</b> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>Part-Time</b>    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Drop-In</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                                  | <b>Sessional</b>     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Childminding</b> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>Temporary</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| <b>Proposed service type:</b>  | Part-time and Sessional   |
| <b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>  | 22  |
| <b>Outcome of the F06 Inspection</b><br>(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,) | The proposal is to offer a part-time and sessional service for children in the 2-3 year and 3-6-year age range to be accommodated. It is proposed the service will operate five days a week and offer the ECCE scheme from 9 am to 12pm daily and additional part-time hours until 1pm. |
| <b>Registered service:</b>   | Registered for Part-time and Sessional for 22 Children  |

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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 2 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
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| <b>Inspection Undertaken by:</b> | Olivia Quill          |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | Early Years Inspector |

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| <b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b> | Tusla Child and Family Agency<br>Loughlinstown Health Centre<br>Loughlinstown County Dublin. |
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| <b>Rationale for Inspection</b> |
| <b>Proposed New Service</b>     |

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

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| <b>Registration Status:</b>  | Registered for Part-time and Sessional for 22 Children |
| <b>Date of Registration:</b> | 10 <sup>th</sup> 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).

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| <b>Description of Service</b> | The proposed private childcare facility aims to provide Part-time care, for pre-school children aged 2 – 6 years. The service operates Monday to Friday and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9am to 12pm daily and part-time care is provided until 1pm. The service proposes to accommodate a maximum number of 22 children.  |
| <b>Premises</b>               | The premises is located in Saint Finian’s community building in the village of Newcastle in the south-western part of South Dublin County. Two care rooms are provided: one on the ground floor and one on the first floor. Sanitary facilities are available for the children and staff. There is an enclosed outdoor space to the rear of the premises. The service also has access and use of the indoor community hall.   |
| <b>Staffing</b>               | Three adults in total are employed to work in the service including the owner. A manager and deputy manager for the service have been appointed and one additional adult has been recruited.  |
| <b>Methodology</b>            | <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> |
| <b>Acknowledgement</b>        | The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.   |

**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 registered provider has ensured that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise 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.*

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1) An adequate number of adults will work directly in the pre-school service as it is proposed to care for a maximum of twenty-two pre-school children. Three adults will work directly with these children in the 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,*

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*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.*

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| <b>Requirement met:</b> | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) There are adequate and suitable facilities to support children’s play in both preschool rooms. Areas of interest for children in the pre-school rooms include a home corner, small world toys, a reading &amp; relaxation area. Low level tables and chairs were provided in the care rooms for pre-school children to engage in tabletop activities.</p> <p>(b) Floor matting and soft cushions were provided in preschool 1 room on the ground floor and an adult size sofa was provided in pre-school 2 for children to rest and opt out of activities as required.</p> <p>(2)(a) A securely fenced outdoor play area to the rear of the premises was available for the children. The surface area was partly paved and had a gravel area. An indoor hall is available for use by the service at designated times.</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.*

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| <b>Requirement met:</b> | <p>Requirement has been met.</p> <p>The service proposes that the parents of the children will provide a healthy lunch. The service will provide morning and afternoon snacks. All perishable food will be stored in a refrigerator below 5° Celsius. Drinking water will be freely available in the care rooms.</p> |
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### 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.*

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| <b>Requirement met:</b> | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>External doors are secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The outdoor</p> |
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area is suitably secured. Windows have been fitted with fire-safe restrictors. Protective radiator covers have been provided where required. Emergency exits were unobstructed and signage is in place to identify the fire exit doors. There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins throughout the service.

### 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) There was evidence available that the staff members held in-date certification in paediatric first aid, thereby ensuring that a person trained in first aid for children would be at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box was available on the premises which was stored in a conspicuous location.

### 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 was available which would be used to record fire drills that take place on a monthly basis in the service.

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- (b) An in-date record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in conspicuous positions in the premises.

### 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.

Evidence of insurance was available for twenty-two children and was valid until 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) The service is located in a purposely adapted building in Saint Finian’s community centre which appears to be in good condition and of sound and stable structure.

(b) The premises was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school service.

(c) The premises was adequately lit by means of natural lighting and supplemented by artificial fluorescent lighting in preschool 2 and ceiling lights in preschool 1.

The premises was heated by means of oil-fired central heating.

Ventilation was provided by means of openable windows and mechanical ventilation was provided in the sanitary areas.

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- (d) Documented cleaning schedules will be maintained to ensure regular cleaning of the service and equipment.
- (e) Suitable and adequate sanitary accommodation was provided adjacent the care rooms with one toilet and one wash-hand basin available to the pre-school children in both preschool 1 and preschool 2 rooms. Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and disposable paper towel was provided for hand hygiene. Designated sanitary accommodation was available for staff 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.*
- (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).*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate clear floor space is available in the premises to support children’s play, activity and movement.
- (2), (4)(a), (b) The clear floor space in preschool room 1 on the ground floor measured approximately 27.5 m<sup>2</sup> and the clear floor space in preschool 2 on the first floor measured approximately 21.9 m<sup>2</sup>. Adequate clear floor space is available for the proposed 22 pre-school children.