

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024DS005

Name of Service: Once Upon A Time

Address of Service: The Oaks, The View, Barnoaks, Citywest, Dublin 24

Email Address: headoffice@onceuponatime.ie

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: AnneMarie McCormack & David McCormack

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type: Full Day Care

Proposed Number of Children: 105

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)

The registered providers propose to accommodate 105 children aged 1 to 6 years on a full-time basis. During the inspection, the operations manager confirmed that the service proposes to accommodate 106 children.

The provider proposes to operate between 07:30 and 18:30 Monday to Friday, 51 weeks per year.

Registered service: Registered Full Day Care for 106 children.

Date of Inspection: 1 0 0 9 2 0 2 4

Inspection Undertaken by: R. Brien & S. Quigley

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 X01F.

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Full Day Care for 106 children.

Date of Registration: 13th of 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	Once Upon A Time is a proposed early years service offering full day care to children aged between 1 to 6 years. The provider proposes to accommodate 106 children and will operate Monday to Friday from 07:30 to 18:30 for 51 weeks of the year.
Premises	The premises is located in a purposefully adapted unit in an urban, residential area of Citywest, south Dublin. It is located over two floors. On the ground floor, there are seven care rooms, two cot rooms, an office and a kitchen. There is one care room located on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed outdoor area to the side of the premises. There is a balcony located on the first floor, the operations manager stated that this will not be used by the service and this area was not included as part of the inspection.
Staffing	The registered providers have appointed a manager and deputy manager for the service. There will be six adults employed to work with children initially and nineteen adults working directly with the children when the service is fully operational.
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 operations and area managers 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 registered providers have 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

An adequate number of adults have been recruited to work in the service. A total of six staff will be employed to work directly with the children when the service opens initially. Nineteen staff will work directly with the children when the service is fully operational.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The care rooms are bright and spacious. 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 are available containing materials for manipulative, creative, sensory and imaginative play. These include designated interest areas including home corners, small world play, art and construction areas

and books. All play materials are accessible to the children at their level. Rest areas are available in each care room.

(b)

There are two dedicated cot rooms on the ground floor of the service. Cot room 1 has eight cots and cot room 2 has eleven cots. Four foldable cots are also available if required.

There are thirty-six stackable floor beds available for children over 2 years of age and the service also has four floor beds suitable for children under 2 years of age who may be transitioning from a cot. Care rooms have suitable and comfortable rest areas available which contain soft matting and cushions.

(2)(a)

There is an enclosed outdoor area provided on the premises. The area can be directly accessed from two care rooms and has a shock absorbent surface. Suitable play equipment and materials are available including ride-on toys, climbing materials and balls.

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.

A kitchen is available for the preparation and provision of adequate food and drinks for children. A four-week menu plan is available to demonstrate that varied nutritious food will be provided. Perishable foods will be stored in the refrigerator. Drinking water is available on the premises. A healthy eating policy is in place.

Children attending will be provided with breakfast, lunch, a hot meal and an afternoon snack during the day. The hot meal will be provided by an external catering company. The operations manager confirmed that alternative meals/snacks will be available if required and that additional snacks will be available outside of scheduled mealtimes.

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 are secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- Emergency exit doors are unobstructed to allow for safe evacuation.

- There are no loose cables or cords that could pose a risk of injury.
- An infection control policy is in place to inform practice.
- 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 are stored safely.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to children.

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)

Two staff employed to work in the service have current certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)(b)

Suitably equipped first aid boxes are provided in the service. They are 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The operations manager has indicated that fire drills will be carried out on a monthly basis.

(b)

There is a record available relating to the commissioning of the firefighting equipment and for the commissioning of the fire detection and alarm system.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed conspicuously throughout the service and the fire assembly point is 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:

The requirement has been met.

The registration team received a copy of adequate insurance from 02/09/2024 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 proposed new service is located over two levels in a fully adapted unit and the operations manager confirmed that the premises is of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The proposed providers have taken appropriate measures to safeguard the premises. All external doors and gates were locked to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving unsupervised.
- (c) The service is adequately lit, heated and ventilated. There was a good level of natural lighting in the care rooms with artificial lighting available as required. Blinds have been fitted to control light levels when required in care rooms.

Windows can be opened to provide natural ventilation. The service has a thermostatically controlled air to water heating system and room temperatures were maintained between 18-22°C. Air conditioning is available in all care rooms and the two cot rooms. The sanitary areas are ventilated by mechanical means of ventilation.
- (d) The premises and surrounding environment are clean and maintained as required. A cleaning schedule is in place and cleaning equipment is available in the care rooms.
- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities have been provided. There are five toilets and wash hand basins and eight nappy changing units and wash hand basins designated for children's use. There are four toilets and wash hand

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basins available for adults. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water is 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.

(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.

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.

(2)

There was sufficient clear floor space to accommodate the proposed number of 106 children in respect of their age range.

Room Name	Proposed number of children and type of service	Proposed age of children	Space available m ²
Wobbler 1	10 full day care	1-2 years	31.6m ²
Wobbler 2	10 full day care	1-2 years	29.6m ²
Wobbler 3	10 full day care	2-3 years	30m ²
Wobbler 4	10 full day care	2-3 years	30m ²
Toddlers	12 full day care	2-3 years	33m ²
Pre-Montessori	16 full day care	2-3 years	40m ²
Junior Montessori	18 full day care	3-6 years	41.8m ²
Montessori	20 full day care*	3-6 years	57m ²

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* A condition of issuance of the fire safety certificate states that there shall be a maximum of 20 non-sleeping children accommodated in the first floor care room (Montessori).