

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024FL009

Name of Service: First Steps Academy Creche and Montessori Ltd.

Address of Service: 50 Royal Canal Crescent,
Rathborne Park,
Dublin 15
D15 CHX5

Email Address: info@firststepsacademy.ie

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Bruna Rocha Carniel

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:	63
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Full daycare service 57 children aged 1-6 years attending on a full day care basis or 63 children including a sessional service for children aged 3-6 years
Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care for 63 children (57 Full Day Care)

Date of Inspection: 0 6 0 9 2 0 2 4

Inspection Undertaken by: E. Finnegan Hayes
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate,
Floor 7 Brunel Building,
Heuston South Quarter,
St. John's Road West,
Kilmainham,
Dublin 8

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care for 63 children (57 Full Day Care)
Date of Registration:	11 th September 2024

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 is privately operated and will offer full day care to children aged 1-6 years. The service proposes to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.
Premises	The proposed service will operate from a unit on the ground floor of an apartment block in a residential area in North Dublin. The building consists of four care rooms, a cot room, sanitary facilities, a kitchen and staff room. A fully enclosed outdoor area is available to the rear of the premises and accessed through two of the four care rooms.
Staffing	The registered provider proposes to employ twelve staff to work directly with the children in the service and will also work in the service in a supernumerary capacity.
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 service owners, proposed registered provider and operation 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:	(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
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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 proposes to have ten staff working directly with the children in the service and three staff who can offer support in the care rooms as required.
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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 toys and materials available were assessed and deemed adequate to support the learning and development of the children. For example. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low level tables and chairs were available in all of the care rooms suitable to the age of the children proposed to attend each room.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toys and materials were displayed at a suitable height which will allow children to access them independently. • All care rooms were equipped with a range of toys and equipment suitable for children in the proposed age group. The toys were grouped thematically into clearly defined interest areas. • The outdoor area is equipped with a range of toys and equipment to support a range of play experiences. <p>(b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All care rooms have rest areas providing a comfortable place for the children to rest or to take a break from activities during the day. • Fifteen cots were available for children under 2 years to sleep during the day. • Ten sleep mats were available for children over 2 years to sleep on during the day. <p>(2) An adequately secured outdoor area is available to the rear of the service.</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 service has a healthy eating policy in place.
- The service will provide food to the children in attendance and has a four-week menu in place. The menu includes three meals and two snacks per day.
- The service has contracted an outside company to provide hot meals. This will be heated in the service kitchen.
- Additional and alternative portions of food will be available for children who do not eat the food provided or who require extra food outside of set mealtimes.
- Water will be available to the children in each care room.

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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.

Requirement met:

The registered provider has put the following measures in place to ensure the safety of the children;

- The entrance to the service is secured with a coded lock and a second internal secured door will provide an additional barrier preventing unauthorised persons accessing the building.
- Care room doors are fitted with handles at adult height, and both exit doors are fitted with button release mechanisms at adult height to prevent children leaving the care rooms and service unsupervised.
- The outdoor area is adequately secured with a high wall and a gate which is secured with a bolt lock.
- Toys and equipment are well maintained and free from hazards.
- Individual bedlinen will be available for use by the children and a system is in place to ensure bedlinen is laundered.
- Suitable equipment is available to facilitate hygienic nappy changing.
- A cord in the sanitary area used for nappy changing is adequately secured out of reach of the children.
- The fire assembly point is clearly labelled.
- Fire exits were clearly labelled and unobstructed.

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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:

- (1) The registered provider ensured an adequate number of staff are trained in First Aid Response (FAR).
- (2) (a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is available in the kitchen, stored out of reach of the children but immediately available if required.

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:

- (1) (a) A mechanism for recording monthly fire drills was available for review.
- (b) Both the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms have been installed recently in the service. A record of installation and commissioning was available. The record showed that the firefighting equipment was installed in August 2024 and the smoke alarms were installed on 2nd September 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire emergency were displayed throughout the service in care rooms and communal areas.

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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 16/09/2024 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:

- (a)
- No structural deficits were brought to the attention of the inspector.
 - Water is provided by the public mains.
 - Sewage is removed from the building via the public sewage system.
- (b)
- The service entrance is secured, and visitor access will be managed by staff.
 - The outdoor area is secure with high wall and secured gate.
- (c)
- Natural light is available in both care rooms and sanitary areas, this is supplemented by artificial light.
 - Shatterproof covers are fitted on all light fixtures.
 - The care rooms will be ventilated by opening windows while mechanical ventilation is present in the sanitary area.
 - An ambient temperature is maintained in the care rooms.
- (d)
- The service was adequately cleaned.
 - The service had rodent proofing in place.

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	<p>(e)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five toilets are available for use by the children. These are contained within three of the four care rooms. This in combination with the nappy changing facilities, is sufficient for the proposed number of children attending the service. • Two nappy changing units are available for use in the service. • Six low level sinks are available in the sanitary areas for use by the children. Four additional sinks are available in the care rooms. • Two toilets and sinks are available for use by the staff in the service.
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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.*

(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:

(1) The following clear floor space is available in the care rooms for children to work and play;

- Baby bears room which is proposed to cater to children aged 1-2 years measures 28m².
- Snuggle bears room which is proposed to cater to children aged 2-3 years measures 34.5m².
- Buddy bears room which is proposed to cater to children aged 3-6 years measures 40m².
- Cub bears room which is proposed to cater to children aged 3-6 years measures 37m².

This is sufficient for 57 children attending on a full day care basis based on the ages proposed to be catered for in each room.

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(4) The registered provider proposes to provide a sessional service for ECCE scheme eligible children in the Buddy bears and Cub bears rooms. The space measurements listed above in (1) provide space for 63 children attending the service on a sessional basis as outlined by the registered provider.