

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024FL011

Name of Service: Toddle In

Address of Service: Hedgestown National School,
Lusk,
Co Dublin.
K45 C793

Email Address: toddlein@hotmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Claire Mc Auley

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time		Drop-In	
	Sessional	✓	Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed service type: Proposed to operate a sessional early years' service.

Proposed Number of Children: 50

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

- To cater for children aged 2.5 to 6 years on a sessional basis.
- To operate from 9am to 12 midday each weekday for 38 weeks each year.
- Based on the current insurance available, a maximum of 40 children can be catered for on a sessional basis.

Registered service: Registered Sessional service 40 children maximum

Date of Inspection: 0 3 1 0 2 0 2 4

Inspection Undertaken by: AM Coyle & S Taaffe

Title: Early years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 181-189 Lakeshore Drive,
Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Sessional service 40 children

Date of Registration: 7th October 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	It is proposed that the Toddle In will be a sessional Early years' service providing early years care and education to children aged from 2.5 -6 years from 09:00 am to 12 midday Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.
Premises	The proposed new service would be conducted from 2 ground floor classrooms in a recently opened primary school in Hedgestown, Co Dublin. Sanitary accommodation is located in each of the care rooms. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is located to the side of the school.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider will work directly with the children attending the service in addition to 3 further staff members.
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 Inspectors wish 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:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

It is proposed that the registered provider would be the designated person in charge on a daily basis and that a named person would be appointed 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The proposed registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 and would ensure that an adequate number of adults would at all times work directly with the children in the service.

The registered provider has employed 3 additional staff members.

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 were equipped with age-appropriate furniture and equipment. The rooms were laid out well and were clearly defined and included home corners, libraries, construction resources and art and craft materials. The materials were stored at an accessible level to the pre-school children. A secure outdoor area is located to the rear of the service.

(b) Suitable rest facilities are available. There are comfortable and suitable areas with mats, cushions and a teepee tent provided in both care rooms for a child to rest or take a break from activities if required.

(2)(a) The outdoor play area located to the side of the school is fully enclosed and secure. The outdoor play area is observed to be suitable and secure, and no safety hazards are noted. The area is surfaced with artificial grass.

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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 children will bring snacks from home that will be in-line with the service's Healthy Eating policy with perishable items stored in a refrigerator. Drinking water would be made available to the children throughout the day.

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.

There are no hazards observed by the inspector that would impact the health, safety or welfare of the children attending the service. Appropriate measures have been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children for example;

- The external doors and windows were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- The windows in the care rooms were fitted with restrictive opening devices.
- Blind cords were secure in the 2 care rooms.
- All furniture and equipment were clean and in good condition and suitable for use by the proposed age groups.
- The heating system for the service was thermostatically controlled to prevent radiators from exceeding the maximum surface temperature of 50°C.
- Thermostatically controlled running water was available at the wash hand basins in 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) The registered provider is aware of the requirement for a person with in-date first aid response (FAR) training to be at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. There is evidence available in the service to show that a sufficient number of staff members hold in-date FAR training.

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(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is provided in the service, available at all times for the children if necessary.

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 which would be used to record fire drills that would take place monthly at the service.
- (b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The firefighting equipment is certified as having been serviced in June 2024 and the smoke alarm was installed on the 08/08/2024.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the care rooms in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

The regulatory requirement has been met.

The registered provider has insurance cover in place for a maximum of 40 pre-school children. The policy shows that the service is insured 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:

The requirement has been met.

- (a) The premises is a recently constructed primary school which appears to be in good condition throughout.

(b) The premises appears safe and was found to be appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years' service.
The outdoor play area is surrounded by fencing with a latched gate to secure the area when children are playing outdoors.

(c)

Lighting

- The premises is adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating

- The premises is heated by an air to heat system. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection.

Ventilation

- Ventilation in the proposed new room, existing pre-school room and sanitary accommodation is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents.

(d) The premises is in a clean condition and in a good state of repair.

(e) The service is equipped with adequate sanitary facilities

- The service has access to 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins in Room one for use by pre-school children only.
- The service has access to 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins in Room Two for use by pre-school children only.
- A number of staff toilets in the school premises are available for use by the early years staff members.

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:

- (1)(3) The requirement has been met. The proposed registered provider is aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7.
- The clear floor space of Room One measures 68.61 square metres. This meets the space requirements for 22 children aged 2½-6 years, all of whom would be attending on a sessional basis.

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- The clear floor space of Room Two measures 68.61 square metres. This meets the space requirements for 22 children aged 2½-6 years, all of whom would be attending on a sessional basis.