

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024KE001
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Name of Service:	Maap Childcare Limited T/A Tots Creche and Daycare Nursery
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Address of Service:	Castle Park, Dunboyne Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 DX8P.
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Email Address:	maynooth@tots.ie
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Annette Akerlind, Audrey Murray
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" 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:	Full Day Care, Part-time, Sessional
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Proposed Number of Children:	80 children
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service proposes to open a full day care service for children aged 0 – 6 years. 72 children at any one time, with a maximum of 46 attending on a full day care basis. The service will open for 51 weeks from 7:00am – 18:30 hours.
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Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care / Part Time / Sessional Service for 72 Children (Max 46 Full Day Care)
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Dates of Inspection: Day 1	0	7	0	2	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by:	T. Duignan and F. Maher
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W.
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care / Part Time / Sessional Service for 72 Children (Max 46 Full Day Care)
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Date of Registration:	12 th February 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	The proposed private childcare facility, Tots Creche and Daycare Nursery aims to provide full day care, part-time and sessional care service for pre-school children aged 0 to 6 years of age. The proposed hours of operation are between 7:00am - 18:30 hours, Monday-Friday for 51 weeks of the year. The service proposes to accommodate a maximum number of 80 children when it is operating at full capacity.
Premises	The proposed premises is located in a single-story building within a housing development on the outskirts of Maynooth, Co. Kildare. The accommodation consists of five care rooms, two of which have adjoining sanitary facilities, a cot room, sanitary facilities for children and adults, a kitchen, laundry room, staff rest room and an office. A large, secured play area is located to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	It is proposed that fifteen adults will work in the service.
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 providers, area manager and person in charge who were present on the days 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 is met.

(1)(a) The registered providers have ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if 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 is met.

(1) The registered providers stated that they will ensure that there will be an adequate number of adults working with the children attending 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.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(a) The proposed service comprises of five pre-school rooms. The rooms are bright, spacious, and planned to cater for the different age ranges of children who will be attending in each room.</p> <p>Interest areas included library and rest area, home corner, art and craft, small world materials, sensorial materials, puzzles /jigsaws; the areas were equipped with a range of suitable toys and pre-school materials for the different age ranges including a selection of tabletop and manipulative play materials.</p> <p>The proposed outdoor play area is equipped with a wooden climbing frame with playhouse on the wooden platform, wooden teepee, large wooden bus structure and plastic rocket structure, child sized tables and chairs, a mud kitchen, a planting area, and a variety of ride on and push/pull toys.</p> <p>(b) The rest areas in each proposed pre-school room were cosy and comfortable. They consisted of large wipeable floor mats; child sized comfortable seating is placed beside the library areas in each of the care rooms. They were available for any child wishing to take a break from activities and rest.</p> <p>A designated sleep room with 5 cots and 6 floor beds are available for 16 preschool children aged 0-2 years requiring sleep.</p> <p>There are 22 low level beds available for children aged over 2 years requiring sleep during the day.</p> <p>(2)(a) A large spacious outdoor play area is covered in outdoor grass carpet to enable use throughout the year and is provided to the rear of the premises.</p> <p>The perimeter area at the rear of the premises is enclosed by a high wall. The two high level gates to the side are secured with an electromagnetic system with entry to the outdoor area by keypad and a press button system to exit. Both are out of the reach of children.</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 requirement is met.

A healthy eating policy is in place in the service. A cook will be employed to prepare food daily and a four-week menu is available. Drinking water is available in each of the care rooms.

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 entrance door to the premises controls entry to the service. It is electronically secured with a keypad access to prevent unauthorised entrance and children from exiting unsupervised.

A high-level boundary wall is located at the rear of the premises fully enclosing the outdoor play area.

The internal pre-school room doors are secured by door handles.

Cleaning agents are safely stored out of the reach of preschool children. The low-level cupboards in each care room have child safe door locks fitted.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper hand towels are available for hygienic hand washing and drying, with foot pedal operated bins in the care rooms for hygienic and safe disposal of used paper towel and tissues. A separate foot pedal operated bin for the disposal of soiled nappies is available in each of the nappy change areas.

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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 is met.

(1) Persons are trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children and will be immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)(b) Two suitably equipped first aid boxes are available and accessible to children in the main hallway. They were observed to be stored in a conspicuous position.

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 firefighting 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 is met.

(1)

(a) Documentation was available for recording monthly fire drills.

(b) There was a record available of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm, which was 6 February 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was clearly displayed within the care room and hallway.

The fire assembly point was clearly signed in the outdoor area.

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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 is met.

The registered provider had evidence of insurance cover for 80 children. The insurance cover was valid from 1 January 2024 to 27 March 2024.

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 is met.

(a) Visually, the proposed premises is a new building and in a state of good repair.

(b) The proposed care rooms are secured from unauthorised entry by secured gates and the main entrance to the premises is controlled by staff members. There are door handles on all internal doors to ensure that they are secured.

(c) There are openable windows in the five proposed care rooms providing natural daylight and ventilation. LED box ceiling lights are fitted in the care rooms, the cot room and main corridor to provide additional artificial lighting.

The proposed care rooms that are to be transitioned for sleep purposes can be dimmed to ensure children can sleep. The proposed cot room is an internal room with a glass viewing window which allows for lighting to be dimmed for sleep purposes.

The proposed care rooms and sanitary areas are heated by an air to water system throughout the service that is thermostatically controlled. Air conditioning units are present in each proposed care room to regulate the environmental temperature as needed.

	<p>A mechanical ventilation system is present in each proposed sanitary area to ensure that the air is circulated in these enclosed areas.</p> <p>A heat recovery system to filter the air in the proposed cot room several times a day has been fitted.</p> <p>Wall vents are fitted in each proposed care room for additional ventilation.</p> <p>(d) Daily cleaning schedules are in place for the proposed care rooms, proposed sanitary areas and the rest of the service.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>There are four sanitary areas in the service.</p> <p>Five toilets and five wash hand basins are provided for children’s use in the sanitary area located in each of the two of the proposed care rooms and in the sanitary area on the left-hand side of the corridor.</p> <p>Three wall mounted pull down nappy changing units and one tabletop nappy change mat with four wash hand basins are provided in the sanitary areas in two of the proposed care rooms, the disabled toilet, and the sanitary area on the left-hand side of the corridor.</p> <p>Sanitary facilities including two toilets and two wash hand basin facilities are available for staff members in the service.</p>
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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.*
- (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 is met. (1), (2)
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There is adequate space available to accommodate the proposed number of 46 children attending on a full day care basis; 72 children can be accommodated when the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme is contemporaneously provided.

1. Wobbler room (1st room RHS)

A total clear floor space of 29m² is available in the proposed care room for the maximum daily attendance of 10 pre-school children ranging in age from 1-2 years on a full day care or part-time basis.

2. Toddler room (2nd room RHS)

A total clear floor space of 29m² is available in the proposed care room for the maximum daily attendance of 12 pre-school children ranging in age from 2-3 years on a full day care or part-time basis.

3. Pre-School and Afterschool room (3rd room RHS)

A total clear floor space of 41m² is available in the proposed pre-school room for the maximum daily attendance of 22 pre-school children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months -6 years attending for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme.

4. Baby room (2nd room LHS)

A total clear floor space of 23m² is available in the proposed pre-school room for the maximum daily attendance 6 pre-school children ranging in age from 0-1 years on a full day care or part-time basis.

5. Preschool room (1st room LHS)

A total clear floor space of 40.5m² is available in the proposed pre-school room for the maximum daily attendance of 22 pre-school children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months -6 years attending for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme or 18 children ranging in age from 3-6 years on a full day care or part-time basis.

6. Cot room

A total clear floor space of 11m² is available in the proposed sleep room.