

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024KE003
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Name of Service:	Maap Childcare Limited T/A Tots Creche and Daycare Nursery
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Address of Service:	Oak Park, Naas, Co. Kildare W91 CX3K
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Email Address:	oakpark@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 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:	80
Outcome of the F06 Inspection	A maximum number of 80 children, 0-6 years of age, as proposed by the registered providers, may be accommodated.
Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 80 Children

Date of Inspection:	2	9	0	2	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by:	F. Maher, T. Duignan
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre Ballymore Eustace Road Naas Co. Kildare, W91X38W.
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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 Service for 80 Children
Date of Registration:	7 th March 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 aims to provide full day care to children from 0-6 years of age. The service is proposing to accommodate 80 children. The proposed hours of operation are from 07.00am to 18.30pm for 51 weeks of the year.
Premises	The proposed premises is a purpose-built facility located in a housing development in a residential estate on the outskirts of Naas, Co. Kildare. There are five pre-school rooms, one cot room, a kitchen, office, staff room, sanitary facilities and storage space provided. There is an enclosed outdoor space at the rear of the premises.
Staffing	The proposed registered providers have appointed a designated person in charge as required. It is proposed that thirteen adults will commence working in the service upon opening, this will include eleven childcare staff, one chef and one bus driver. All proposed childcare staff working directly with the pre-school children will hold qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.
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.

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Acknowledgement	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered providers, management team and person in charge 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) There is a designated person in charge and a named person will 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 providers and management team have stated that there will be an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service. The person in charge of the service will be supernumerary and available to oversee the management of the service and provide relief cover as necessary.
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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The service comprises of five pre-school rooms which are bright and spacious. One pre-school room is located on the first floor of the premises. All pre-school rooms have been constructively planned and laid out to cater for the needs of children who will be attending in each room. Each room has a variety of age-appropriate toys and learning equipment available at an accessible height to facilitate a child-led learning environment. There are clearly defined areas of interest including home corners, construction areas, dress up, sensory play, shops, small world and comfortable rest areas with libraries. Mood lighting was evident in each pre-school room. A variety of play and learning materials included art and craft materials, wooden interactive wall mounted puzzles, puzzles, jigsaws, interconnecting manipulative equipment, blocks, cars, dolls, puppets and a wide variety of props for the interest areas. The younger care rooms were equipped with interactive toys, push/pull equipment, shape sorters and stacking toys, mirrors, sensorial equipment, wooden jigsaws and puzzles, and a variety of suitable art and craft materials to cater for the younger age groups.

(b)

One cot room with seven standard cots is provided for any child less than two years of age requiring sleep in a cot, however, there was insufficient space between each cot. This was discussed with the registered providers on the day of inspection and they advised they would remove a cot(s) to ensure the correct spacing of 50cms would be adhered to in order to facilitate staff members’ ease of access to observe a sleeping child, for general safety and infection control purposes. Seven floor beds are available to facilitate the sleep needs for any child less than 2 years of age if indicated when a risk assessment is completed in partnership with parents. Eighteen stackable beds are

	<p>available for children over 2 years of age requiring a period of sleep when attending on a full day or part time basis. Suitable rest areas with child sized couches are provided in each room and a comfortable chair is provided in the younger care room to enable staff members to sit comfortably to nurse/nurture the younger children.</p> <p>(2)(a) There is an enclosed outdoor play area provided at the rear of the premises. This area has an artificial grass covering and there is plenty of space for children to run and play. Suitable and age appropriate play equipment is available including, ride on equipment, a large wooden bus structure, a wooden climbing frame with playhouse on the platform, a wooden teepee, outdoor kitchens, sand and water trays child sized tables and chairs and wall mounted black boards. The area is enclosed by a high-level wall and high level wooden fencing; there is one high-level wooden gate to the rear which is secured with a magnetic locking mechanism, a high level self-release button is located on the inside and a key pad mechanism is in place for access on the outside. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area.</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 registered providers have employed one chef and there are facilities available for the provision of adequate food and drink for children. A four-week menu plan is available to demonstrate that varied nutritious food will be provided. Drinking water is available in the service and will be available at all times for the children.

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.

Access to the pre-school service will be electronically controlled by staff at the main entrance to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The internal doors from the

small entrance lobby also has a keypad system in place with an electromagnetic release mechanism. The outdoor play area is suitably secured with a high level perimeter wall and high level wooden fencing and gate which is secured on the inside with a magnetic locking system. All windows have been fitted with fire-safe restrictors and two of the windows in the upstairs pre-school room have been fitted with a Perspex guard to mitigate the risk of children accessing the window opening. Visibility stickers are in place on full-length glass doors and windows. All cupboards are fitted with safety catches.

There is sufficient storage space in the premises for children’s belongings, cleaning materials, floor beds and outdoor play equipment. All emergency exits are clear. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and wall mounted paper hand towel dispensers are available in the sanitary and nappy changing accommodation for hygienic hand washing and drying. Paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted dispensers are available in each pre-school room also.

Foot pedal operated bins are located in the sanitary areas for the disposal of used nappies and in each pre-school room for the hygienic and safe disposal of used paper hand towel, tissues and waste.

Refrigerators are provided in each pre-school room for any perishable food items. A pest control contract is in place for the premises.

The premises is maintained in a clean and hygienic condition and detailed cleaning schedules are in place for all room environments.

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)

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	<p>Current certification in relation to First Aid Response (FAR) training, is available for the named person in charge and three further proposed staff members.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b)</p> <p>Suitably equipped first aid boxes are available and accessible to children at all times; these are stored in conspicuous positions on the ground floor and the upstairs lobby.</p>
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

<p>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—</p> <p>(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and</p> <p>(b) the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.</p>

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>Documentation is available to record monthly fire drills.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>The firefighting equipment has been recently installed and dated February 2024 and the fire/smoke alarm system has been commissioned with supporting documentation dated 26 February 2024.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed conspicuously and the fire assembly points are identified.</p>
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

<p>A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.</p>	
Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>Evidence of insurance was available.</p> <p>An insurance certificate was available indicating cover for 80 children attending a full day care service. The insurance certificate expires on 27/03/2024.</p>

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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)

The proposed premises has been recently built and decorated and visually is in a state of good repair.

(b)

The entrance/exit doors to the premises are electronically secure and will be controlled by staff to prevent unauthorised access to the service and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. The outdoor play area is surrounded by a high wall and fencing. There is a high-level wooden gate to the rear of the premises which is secured with a magnetic locking system on the inside and keypad access on the outside preventing unauthorised access to the outdoor play area.

(c)

The premises benefits from high levels of natural light via large windows in all childcare rooms. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from recessed fluorescent ceiling lights in each pre-school room. The wall lights in the sleep room have a remote control unit to dim the lighting for the comfort of sleeping children. There are openable windows in each pre-school room and some of the sanitary areas. A mechanical extraction/ ventilation system has been installed for the simultaneous ventilation of the remaining sanitary and nappy changing areas.

An integrated air management system provides air-conditioning and/or heat to all pre-school rooms and the sleep room. This system can be regulated by the staff members from wall mounted control panels in each room. Environmental room temperatures were maintained between the recommended 18-22°Celsius and between 16-20°Celsius in the sleep room.

(d)

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Daily cleaning schedules are in place for all pre-school room environments and sanitary areas.

(e)

The sanitary facilities provided in the service include:

- 8 toilets and 8 wash hand basins designated for children's use.
- 4 nappy changing units, two of which are pull down wall mounted units with 4 associated wash hand basins; three nappy change units are located on the ground floor and one unit is located in the sanitary area of the upstairs pre-school room.
- 3 toilets and 3 wash hand basins are available in the service, one is a disabled access toilet for adult use.

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),(2)

Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated below:

Room 1	1 st room LHS main corridor	Clear floor space	45 m²
Room 2	2 nd room LHS main corridor	Clear floor space	30 m²
Room 3	3 rd room LHS main corridor	Clear floor space	30 m²

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	Room 4	4 th room at end of main corridor	Clear floor space	42.8 m²
	Room 5	Upstairs room	Clear floor space	43 m²
<p>(4)(a)(b)</p> <p>The required floor space for 80 pre-school children in the proposed age range, 0-6 years old, attending the service is met.</p>				