

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024KE004
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Name of Service:	Cookies Early Learning Centre
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Address of Service:	Aughamore Loughbollard Clane Co. Kildare W91XPV3
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Email Address:	inquiry.cookieselcclane@gmail.com
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Megan Cooke-Smith
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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
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Proposed Number of Children:	145
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	The service proposes to open a full day care service from 07:30am-18:30pm for 51 weeks of the year. The age profile proposed is 1-6 years. A maximum number of 75 children in the proposed age range, may be accommodated and is inclusive of a sessional service.
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Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care for 75 children.
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Date of Inspection:	2	5	0	7	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by:	F. Maher
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate Child & Family Agency Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Ballymore Eustace road Naas, Co. Kildare
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W91 X38W.

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care 75 children.
Date of Registration:	13 th August 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 private childcare facility aims to provide full day care to children from 1-6 years of age. The service is proposing to accommodate 145 pre-school children. The proposed hours of operation are from 07.30am to 18.30pm and proposes to open for 51 weeks of the year with the exception of Christmas, Good Friday and public holidays.
Premises	The proposed premises is a purpose-built facility located in a new housing development in a residential estate on the outskirts of Clane Co. Kildare. There are 4 pre-school rooms, two cot rooms, a kitchen, office, sanitary facilities and storage space provided. Two outdoor play areas are located to the front and one side of the building.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider has appointed a person in charge for the service and a designated person to deputise as required. It is proposed that 13/14 childcare staff and one chef will commence working in the service upon opening. 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.

	<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	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider, person in charge and deputy person in charge who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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 is available to deputise as 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)

The proposed registered provider has stated that there will be an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service. Upon opening, 13/14 adults are proposed to work directly with the children attending the service to ensure the required adult to child ratio is maintained. The manager and deputy manager of the service will be

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supernumerary and available to oversee the management of the service and provide relief cover as necessary.

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 four pre-school rooms which are bright and spacious. 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, small world and rest areas with libraries. A variety of play and learning materials included puzzles, jigsaws, interconnecting manipulative equipment, blocks, cars, dolls, an assortment of props for the interest areas and plenty of art and craft materials. The younger care rooms were equipped with climbing cushions, climbing frame, interactive toys, 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)

There are two cot rooms, the larger equipped with five standard cots and a smaller room, located off the entrance lobby, equipped with three standard cots along with four floor beds which are provided for the proposed number of children less than two

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	<p>years of age requiring sleep in a cot/floor bed. The registered provider is aware any child less than 2 years old from approximately 15 months onwards can sleep on floor beds, with parental consent and safeguards in place.</p> <p>Twenty-four stackable beds are 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, cushions and floor mats are provided in each room.</p> <p>(2)(a) There are two enclosed outdoor play areas provided on the premises, one to the front and one to the side of the building. The play surface on the larger play area has artificial grass, bark and shingle and the side play area has an artificial grass surface. Suitable play equipment is available including, ride on equipment, large wooden climbing frames with slides and swing set, wooden balance beams, water play, outdoor kitchen and large blocks for building. In the side play area, there is a music wall, small goal set, sand play, ride on equipment and a playhouse. There is sufficient space for children to run and play. The areas are enclosed by high-level metal fencing and three high level gates which are secured with high level slide bolt locking mechanisms on the inside of each gate.</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 has been met.

The registered provider has employed a 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.

The kitchen has been registered with the relevant authority.

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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 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 outdoor area is suitably enclosed with high metal perimeter fencing and gates; the three high level gates are secured with high level slide bolt locking mechanisms on the inside of each gate. All windows have been fitted with fire-safe restrictors and visibility strips are in place on the full-length glass doors in each pre-school room. Cupboards are fitted with safety catches in the younger care rooms.

There is sufficient storage space in the premises for cleaning materials, miscellaneous items and stackable beds. Cubbies and coat hangers are available for children's belongings. A staff room is available for staff belongings. All emergency exits are clear. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and wall mounted paper hand towel dispensers are available in the sanitary/nappy changing accommodation for hygienic hand washing and drying. Foot pedal bins are in place throughout the service for the hygienic disposal all 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

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Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>Current certification in relation to First Aid Response (FAR) training is available for the named person in charge.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b)</p> <p>The first aid kits in each room were easily accessible and in conspicuous positions in each pre-school room. All kits were suitably equipped and immediately available for use in each room.</p>
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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:	<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 is dated 1 May 2024. The commissioning/handover certificate of the fire/smoke detection system was available and dated 14 March 2023. Documentation is in place detailing the service contract that is in place for the system.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed conspicuously throughout the service and the fire assembly point is identified in the outdoor area.</p>
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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.
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A record of insurance cover for a maximum of 110 children was provided to the Registration Office, valid from **09/08/2024 to 08/08/2025**.

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

(b)

The main entrance/exit door to the premises is 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 double doors in two of the pre-school rooms leading directly to the car park area are secured with thumb turn locks on the inside.

The outdoor play area is surrounded by high level metal fencing and gates, the three high level gates are secured with high level slide bolt locking mechanisms on the inside of each gate.

(c)

The premises benefits from high levels of natural light via large windows and full-length double glass doors in all childcare rooms. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from led ceiling lights in each pre-school room. Window coverings are in place in the sleep room to support a dimmed environment for the comfort of sleeping children.

There are openable windows and doors in each pre-school room and in each sanitary area. A mechanical extraction/ventilation system is also installed for the simultaneous

ventilation of the sanitary areas and for a small internal room that has been set up as a sensory room.

Electric ceiling mounted heat plates are in place throughout the service to heat the building; this system can be regulated by the staff members from wall mounted control units in each room. Environmental room temperatures were maintained between the recommended 18-22°Celsius the sleep rooms as per the recoding of room thermometers in place.

(d)

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

(e)

There are adequate and sufficient sanitary facilities provided in the service for the proposed number of children to attend and include:

- One sanitary area located between the two pre-school rooms on the right-hand side of the corridor which is equipped with 3 toilets and five wash hand basins and one standalone nappy change unit for children's use.
- One sanitary area located between the end pre-school room and room on the left-hand side of the corridor which is equipped with three toilets and three wash hand basins for children's use.
- There is one disabled access toilet with wash hand basin and two toilets and wash hand basins designated for adult use.
- A wall mounted nappy change unit with associated wash hand basin is located in the disabled access toilet and a third standalone nappy change unit is also available if required and located in the sanitary area between the pre-school rooms on the left-hand side/end of the corridor.

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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.
- (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 75 children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated in the table below:

Room	Room 1 1 st room RHS of Corridor	Room 2 2 nd room RHS of Corridor	Room 3 room at end of Corridor	Room 4 1 st room LHS of Corridor
Clear floor space	38 m ²	52 m ²	42.2 m ²	32.45 m ²
Proposed age range	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-6 years	1-2 years
Maximum number children	13 (FDC)	22 (FDC) 28 (Sessional)	18 (FDC) 23 (Sessional)	11(FDC)

(4)(a)

The required floor space for 64 children in the proposed age ranges attending on a full day care basis is met.

(b)

A maximum number of 75 children may attend during the operation of concurrent sessional services.