

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2024KE005

**Name of Service** Little Rascals Rathangan

**Address of Service:** The Lodge, Bracknagh Road, Rathangan, Co. Kildare R51XK83

**Email Address:** [littlerascalsrathangan@outlook.com](mailto:littleascalrathangan@outlook.com)

**Name of Registered Provider:** Laura Maloney

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	ü	<b>Part-Time</b>		<b>Sessional</b>	ü
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

**Proposed change:** The service proposes to change the service type to full day care, change the opening hours of the sessional service and increase the numbers of children attending from 22 to 44. Full day care will be offered from 8:00am – 6:00pm and the sessional service will open from 9:00am – 12:00pm.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 44

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Adding an additional service type to include a sessional service from 9:00am – 12:00pm, to a full day care service from 8:00am – 6:00pm with a maximum number of **35** pre-school children attending on a full day care basis and **44** children on a sessional basis.

**Registered change:** Change in service type from Sessional to Full Day & Sessional  
Change in hours of operation from 09:15 – 12:15 to 08:00 – 18:00  
Change in number of children from 22 to 44(Max 35 Full Day) children

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	3	0	5	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by:	F. Maher
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91X38W
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<b>Rationale for Inspection:</b>
<b>Proposed Change of Circumstance</b>

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day & Sessional Service for 44(Max 35 Full Day) Children
Date of Registration	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025

<b>Authority to Inspect</b>
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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>The service is currently registered to provide a sessional service between the hours of 9:15am – 12:15pm to 22 children aged 2 – 6 years old. The service is also registered to provide a school age service.</p> <p>The service proposes to provide a full day care service, inclusive of a sessional service that will operate between 8:00am – 6:00pm Monday to Friday. The sessional service will operate between 9:00am – 12:00pm. It is proposed to increase the numbers from 22 to 44 children.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service operates from a single-story refurbished stone building on the Bracknagh road in Rathangan Co. Kildare. Two pre-school rooms, a kitchen and office are provided; a third room is proposed to accommodate the increase in the number of children attending. Outdoor play facilities are located to the front of the premises. Parking is available in the courtyard to the front of the building.</p>

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<b>Staffing</b>	A sufficient number of adults are currently employed in the service to accommodate a change to a full day care service. All adults employed and working directly with pre-school children hold qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.
<b>Methodology</b>	<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 the following 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 registering the change in circumstance. 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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were 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:

The requirement is met.

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:

The requirement is met.

(1)

The registered provider has appointed a sufficient number of staff members to ensure the required adult:child ratios are maintained.

### 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.*

(3) *A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—*

(a) *a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a)

The two current pre-school rooms and the proposed additional pre-school room have suitable play materials and equipment for children aged from 2-6 years to attend on a sessional and full-time basis. The indoor environments are constructively planned with dedicated play areas and adequate play and learning equipment to promote numerary and literacy skills. There were plenty of art and craft materials and suitable props for the interest areas. A sufficient and appropriate number of child-sized tables and chairs to cater for the proposed number of children were available in all rooms. Low-level shelving units were in place displaying the materials and equipment ensuring ease of access for the children.

(b)

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The rest areas are comfortable and consist of child-sized sofas which are available for any child wishing to take a break from activities and rest. Two low level beds are available for any child wishing to sleep when attending the full day care service with appropriate bed linen in place. The service has a safe sleep policy in place to guide practice.

(3)(a)

The outside play area is safe, suitable and secure. The perimeter is enclosed by a wooden fence and gate. The outdoor play equipment included a swing set and slide, small tunnel, wooden climbing frame with a climbing wall and slide and there was plenty of space on the grass surface for the children to run and play games.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### 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.

Parents will be asked to provide a healthy morning snack for their child and the service will freshly prepare and cook the main hot meal, afternoon snack and evening tea.

A three-week menu is in place and displayed in the entrance lobby of the service; this was observed to have a variety of balanced nutritious meals and snacks. Fresh drinking water is available at all times in the service and while a cook is currently being recruited the staff member currently responsible for food preparation is trained in food safety.

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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 is met.

The main entrance gate to the pre-school is secure and is controlled by staff to prevent any pre-school child from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. The outdoor area is suitably secure and is fully surrounded by a wooden fence at a suitable height to prevent a child climbing over and leaving the service. All main entrance doors to the service have a thumb-turning mechanism to secure from the inside.

Storage is available for the safe storage of cleaning products and equipment.

All fire exits were unobstructed and easily recognisable. The fire assembly point was displayed outdoors.

There is provision for the appropriate disposal of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in the pre-school rooms and sanitary area.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted dispensers are available for hygienic hand washing and drying.

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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)

Current certification in relation to first aid response (FAR) was available for staff currently working in the service.

(2)(a)(b)

Suitably equipped first aid boxes are stored in conspicuous positions in the service and are available and accessible to the staff members caring for the children at all times.

### 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 is met.

(1)(a)

Documentation was available with up-to-date recordings for monthly fire drills completed.

(b)

The firefighting equipment and smoke/fire detection alarm system was serviced 14 May 2025 and 9 January 2025 respectively.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was clearly displayed within the service.

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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.

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2026. The insurance provided cover for 44 children.

### 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)

The pre-school rooms and premises are maintained in a good state of repair and the proposed additional pre-school room has been recently refurbished and decorated.

(b)

The main entrance gate to the pre-school is secure and is controlled by staff to prevent any pre-school child from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. The outdoor area is suitably secured with a boundary wooden fence at a suitable height to prevent a child climbing over same. The locking mechanism on the gate cannot be accessed by the children. Both entrance doors to the premises are secured on the inside with thumb turning locking mechanisms to prevent unauthorised entrance.

(c)

There are openable windows and velux windows in the pre-school rooms and velux windows in the proposed additional pre-school room and adjacent sanitary accommodation to naturally ventilate the rooms and the sanitary accommodation. Natural daylight is provided by windows and velux windows with supplementary

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artificial fluorescent ceiling lighting provided in all rooms. The premises is heated by an air-to-water system with wall-mounted radiators in each room.

(d)

Cleaning schedules are in place in the service and the premises, and its environs were clean.

(e)

Adequate sanitary facilities are provided in the service including nappy changing facilities. Four toilets and four wash hand basins are available to accommodate the children. An adult toilet and wash hand basin is available for staff 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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1), (2)

Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of 44 children proposing to attend the service on a sessional basis and 35 children to attend on a full day care basis as demonstrated in the table below:

Room	Room 1 (Little Professors)	Room 2 (Little Rascals)	Room 3 (The Den)
Clear floor space	21 m <sup>2</sup>	35 m <sup>2</sup>	26 m <sup>2</sup>
Age range	2-3/3-6 years	2-3/3-6 years	2 -3/3-6 years
Number of children that can be accommodated	11 Sessional 9 FDC	19 Sessional 15 FDC	14 Sessional 11 FDC