

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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| Tusla I.D: | TU2024KE005 |
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| Name of Service: | Little Rascals Rathangan |
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| Address of Service: | The Lodge Bracknagh road Rathangan Co. Kildare R51XK83 |
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| Email Address: | littlerascalsrathangan@outlook.com |
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| Name of Proposed Registered Provider: | Laura Maloney |
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| Type of Proposed Service: | Full Day Care | <input type="checkbox"/> | Part-Time | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drop-In | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Sessional | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Childminding | <input type="checkbox"/> | Temporary | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Proposed service type: | Sessional |
| Proposed Number of Children: | 22 |
| Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,) | A maximum number of 22 children, 2 years 8 months-6 years of age, as proposed by the registered provider, may be accommodated on a sessional basis from 09:15am-12:15pm, Monday-Friday. |
| Registered service: | Registered Sessional Service 22 children. |

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| Date of Inspection: | 1 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
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| Inspection Undertaken by: | F. Maher |
| Title: | Early Years Inspector |

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| Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: | TUSLA-Child and Family Agency Early Years Inspectorate 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

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| Registration Status: | Registered Sessional Service 22 children. |
| Date of Registration: | 22 nd 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).

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| Description of Service | The proposed registered provider aims to provide a private sessional service for children from 2 years 8 months-6 years of age. The service is proposing to accommodate 22 pre-school children. The proposed hours of operation are from 09.15am to 12.15pm for 38 weeks of the pre-school year. |
| Premises | The proposed premises is a single storey building located on the outskirts of Rathangan, Co. Kildare. There are two pre-school rooms, a small office, a kitchen, sanitary accommodation and a large secure play area located to the front of the building. Parking is available in the courtyard to the front of the pre-school. The service is currently registered to provide school age childcare from the current premises. |
| Staffing | The proposed registered provider and two further staff members are proposed to work in the service upon opening. |
| 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 |

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| | 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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and person in charge 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 has been met.

(1) (a)

There is a designated person in charge and a named person is available 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.
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—
- (b) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

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.

(8)(b)

Not applicable as this will not be a single-handed 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, 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)

There are two proposed pre-school rooms, the larger pre-school room is bright and spacious and suitably laid out with areas of interest to cater for the play and learning needs of the number of children aged 2years 8 months-6 years proposed to attend

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| | <p>the room on a sessional basis. The second pre-school room is smaller and will be an extension of the play and learning environment as of the larger pre-school room. Low level child sized tables and chairs are provided in both rooms and areas of interest include, dress up, kitchen/home corner, sensory tray, library and mark making area and equipment.</p> <p>Open shelving units ensure the toys and learning equipment are easily accessible to the children.</p> <p>A suitably equipped outdoor play area is available to the front of the premises with wooden swing sets and slides, outdoor kitchen, sand and water play and some ride on equipment. The area is fully enclosed with wooden fencing and a securely locked gate.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>A comfortable rest area with soft floor mats and cushions provides a suitable and quiet space for children to rest, relax and/or read a book during the session.</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.

A healthy eating policy is in place in the service.

Parents will provide the morning snack for their child attending. A fridge is available for the storage of any perishable items. 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.

The main entrance door 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 as it is fully enclosed with a wooden fence and secured with a locked gate with a combination locking mechanism also controlled by staff to permit entrance to the grounds.

Locked storage is available for the safe storage of cleaning products and equipment with a locked cupboard located in the sanitary area.

There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of a foot pedal operated bin in the sanitary area.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from a wall mounted dispenser is available for hygienic hand drying.

All fire exits are unobstructed and easily recognisable. The fire assembly point is readily recognisable in the outdoor area.

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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 has been met.

(1)

Current certification in relation to first aid response (FAR) is available for one staff member currently working in the service. The registered provider and person in charge have stated they will both undertake FAR training in September/October 2024.

(2)(a)(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box is available and accessible to children and stored in a conspicuous position in kitchen of the service.

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)

Documentation is available to record fire drills.

(b)

The firefighting equipment had been recently installed and dated May 2024.

A certificate of installation for the fire/smoke detection system was available and dated 9 July 2024.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are clearly displayed within the service and pre-school rooms.

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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.

A copy of the insurance cover note was submitted to the registration office confirming adequate cover for 44 children from 28/08/2024 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 located in an old stone building and the proposed pre-school rooms, sanitary area, kitchen and office are maintained in a good state of repair.

(b) The main entrance gate and door to the pre-school are secure and both are 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.

(c) There are openable windows to naturally ventilate the pre-school rooms and a working velux window is in place in the sanitary accommodation.

Natural daylight is provided by a wall of high-level windows and a full length glass sliding door in the larger pre-school room and by one window in the smaller room.

LED lighting provides supplementary artificial light in each room. The accommodation is heated by underfloor heating that can be thermostatically controlled and is operated by an electric air to water mechanical system.

(d) Cleaning schedules are in place in the service and the premises, and its environs are clean and maintained.

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(e) Adequate sanitary facilities are provided in the service including nappy changing facilities. Two toilets and two wash hand basins are available in the service to accommodate the proposed 22 children. One toilet and sink for adult use is located in the sanitary block for staff.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1), (3)

Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of 22 children proposing to attend the service on a sessional basis as demonstrated in the table below:

| Room | Room 1 | Room 2 |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Clear floor space | 35 m ² | 21 m ² |
| Proposed age range | 2 years 8 months-6 years | 2 years 8 months-6 years |