

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

**Tusla I.D:** TU2024KE007

**Name of Service:** Darling Buds

**Address of Service:** 11 The Heights  
Walkers Gate,  
Southgreen Road, Kildare. R51 PA29

**Email Address:** [niamh.walsh@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:niamh.walsh@yahoo.co.uk)

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Niamh Walshe

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Sessional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed service type:** Full Day Care

**Proposed Number of Children:** 84

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection**  
57 children aged 0 - 6 years of age, can be accommodated at any one time inclusive of children attending on a sessional basis following measurement of the service on inspection.  
A condition of the fire certificate application states, 'Not more than 20 children, (of which none should be sleeping) are to be accommodated on the upper floor'.

**Registered service:** Full Day Care service 57 children

**Date of Inspection:** 2 6 0 8 2 0 2 4

**Inspection Undertaken by:** F. Maher, T. Duignan

**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:**  
Early Years Inspectorate  
Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre  
Child and Family Agency  
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**

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Full Day Care service 57 children
<b>Date of Registration:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> September 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Darling Buds is a private service proposing to operate a full day care service, catering for 84 children aged 0 - 6 years old. It proposes to open Monday to Friday from 07.00am-19:00pm for 50 weeks of the year. The registered provider operates three further services in Co. Laois.</p> <p>Part-time and sessional care and education will also be offered.</p> <p>The service is registered for school aged childcare.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service proposes to operate from a new purpose built two storey premises located in a private residential housing estate on the outskirts of Kildare town.</p> <p>Six pre-school rooms, one cot room, sanitary facilities, including nappy change facilities, a kitchen, office, staff room, storage rooms and an outdoor play area are provided.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>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 a further 9 childcare staff 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.</p>
<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</p>

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	<p>four 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 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>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and persons 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 is 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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement is 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, 10 adults are proposed to work directly with the children attending the service to ensure the required adult to child ratio is maintained. The manager of the service will be supernumerary and available to oversee the management of the service and provide relief cover as necessary. The registered provider will also be available to assist as required.

### 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 is met.

(1)(a)

The service comprises of six pre-school rooms. The rooms are bright and spacious, constructively planned and suitably laid out to cater for the needs and age ranges of children who are proposed to attend each room.

(1)(b)

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A cot room with ten standard cots is provided for the proposed number of children less than two years of age requiring sleep in a cot.

Sixteen 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.

(2)(a)

There is an enclosed outdoor area located at the rear of the premises. The play surface is laid with artificial grass and the space is equipped with a variety of wooden play equipment including a climbing frame, low sized climbing wall, outdoor kitchen, large wall mounted chalk board, plenty of ride on/in equipment, tyres and balance beams. A large, covered area is in place for play during inclement weather. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area.

### 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.

An outside catering company is contracted to supply the main hot meal which will be reheated in the onsite kitchen daily. Parents will be asked to provide the morning snack for their child; remaining snacks, breakfast and evening tea will be provided by the service.

The proposed registered provider advised there will be sufficient food and drinks available to the children throughout the day particularly if a child appears hungry in between meals.

A two-week menu plan is available to demonstrate that varied nutritious food will be provided. Milk and water will be offered at all mealtimes and fresh drinking water is available in all pre-school rooms.

The proposed registered provider advised the relevant health authority has been informed regarding the preparation of food on the premises.

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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/exit door is electronically secured with fob access for staff and electronic bell alert for parents/visitors which is controlled by staff. Internal doors on the ground floor and first floor are also electronically secured with fob access for staff only to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The outdoor area is suitably secured with a high-level perimeter wall and wooden gates at either side of the building. Each high-level gate is secured with slide bolt locking mechanisms that cannot be accessed by the children on the inside or by unauthorised persons from the outside. Documentation is in place to record daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments.

All windows have been fitted with fire-safe restrictors and all cord blinds are securely attached to each wall fitting. Emergency exits are clear.

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.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and wall mounted paper hand towel dispensers are available in all care rooms and the sanitary/nappy changing accommodation to support hygienic hand washing and drying. Foot pedal bins are in place throughout the service for the hygienic disposal of waste.

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

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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)

Evidence of completed First Aid Response (FAR) training is available for the named person in charge, deputy person in charge and several further staff members.

(2)(a)(b)

First aid kits are easily accessible and in conspicuous positions on the corridors of the service. All kits were suitably equipped and immediately available for use.

### 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 monthly fire drills.

(1)(b)

There is a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment which was recently installed and dated June 2024. The commissioning certificate for the fire/smoke detection system was available and dated 17 June 2024.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed in the service and the fire assembly point was identified 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.

A copy of insurance cover was received by the registration team the service is adequately insured from the 02/09/2024 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 is met.

(a)

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

(b)

The main entrance/exit to the service is through the main door which is electronically secured with fob access for staff only and access is controlled/monitored by the staff to supervise entry and exit to the service.

The outdoor area is secured to prevent a child leaving the area unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.

(c)

The premises benefits from natural light via large windows in all pre-school rooms. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from LED ceiling strip lights in the rooms. The service is heated by an air to water heat pump system with thermostatically wall mounted radiators in each pre-school room. Windows in each room can be opened and mechanical ventilation is provided in the sanitary areas.

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	<p>The ambient room temperatures, including the cot room, were measured and recorded and are maintained between 16 - 20°Celsius.</p> <p>(d) Cleaning schedules are in place and the premises and its environs are very clean and well maintained.</p> <p>(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities are provided.</p> <p>There are six toilets and six wash hand basins designated for children’s use.</p> <p>There are four nappy changing units with associated wash hand basins, three of the units are wall mounted pull down units, one located in the sanitary block on the first floor, one located in the disabled access toilet, and one located in the dedicated nappy change area on the ground floor.</p> <p>Two toilets with wash hand basins, one being the disabled access toilet, has been provided for adult/staff use.</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.*
- (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.*
- (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).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1)</p>
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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:

(2)

Room	Room 1 First Floor (ECCE1)	Room 2 First Floor (ECCE2)	Room 3 First Floor (ECCE3)
Clear floor space	21.6 m <sup>2</sup>	50.4 m <sup>2</sup>	51 m <sup>2</sup>
Room	Room 1 Ground Floor (Baby)	Room 1 Ground Floor (Wobbler)	Room 1 Ground Floor (Toddler)
Clear Floor Space	27.7 m <sup>2</sup>	25.4 m <sup>2</sup>	32.5 m <sup>2</sup>

(4)(a)(b)

The required floor space for children in the proposed age ranges attending on a full day care basis is met. A maximum number of 57 children may attend during the operation of concurrent sessional services.