

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024KK001

Name of Service: Little Shamrocks

Address of Service: Main Street,
Ballyhale,
Kilkenny
R95X2X8

Email Address: littleshamrocksfcd@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: John Whittle and Anne Whittle

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	√	Part-Time	√	Drop-In	
	Sessional	√	Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed service type: Full day care

Proposed Number of Children: 30

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)

- Full day care, part time and sessional.
- Maximum no of children at any one time 30.
- Age profile from 1 to 6 years of age.

Registered service: Full day care, Part time & Sessional 30 children

Date of Inspection: 0 9 1 0 2 0 2 4

Inspection Undertaken by: E Mc Garry

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Child and Family Agency
Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital
Ferrybank, Wexford.

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered Full day care, Part time and Sessional service 30 children
Date of Registration:	11 th October 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 registered providers propose to continue running the service which is currently registered to provide a full day care service under the name of Ballyhale Montessori school at the same address. The proposed registered providers propose to care for children aged from 1 to 6 years of age.
Premises	The premises is a detached two storey building which has been renovated to include two preschool rooms, a sleep room, toilets, and a kitchenette. The service has direct access to an outdoor play area situated to the rear of the property
Staffing	There are currently a manager and six staff employed in the service.
Methodology	<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 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>
Acknowledgement	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge who was 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. The service currently has a designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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 registered providers propose to continue to employ the same staff members to work directly with the children during the hours of operation of the 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)

Both preschool rooms are appropriately resourced to provide for the play and stimulation of the preschool children. There are toys and play equipment on display in

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the rooms. There is an outdoor area situated to the rear of the service. The area is safe, suitable and secure.

(b)

There are rest areas provided in the preschool rooms consisting of child sized seating, soft mats and cushions. There is adequate sleep facilities provided for the children currently attending the service. There is a designated sleep room attached to the mini shamrocks room. There are three cots in this sleep room and five floor beds available for the older children attending to sleep in.

(2)(a)

The outdoor area is a safe, suitable and a secure area. The area is equipped with play equipment such as jungle gyms, ride on toys and a covered sand pit for the children to play outdoors.

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 parents currently provide all snacks and meals served to the children attending the service. There is a healthy eating policy in place which outlines the schedule of meals and snacks served in relation to how long the children are in the service. The manager states there is extra food such as fruit, crackers and cheese served if children are still hungry. The water supply is from the mains supply. There are fridges in the service for the safe storage of perishable food.

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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 following requirements to ensure the safety of the children have been met.

General safety:

There are two main front doors to the service. Visitors to the service ring a doorbell to gain access from the street. The door was secure on arrival and remained secure for the duration of the inspection. The openings of the windows are restricted with appropriate restrictive opening devices. All radiators are thermostatically controlled. There are no loose cords evident on the windows in the preschool rooms. The fire doors are not obstructed. The main stairway is well lit. There is a banister in place for the security of staff and children.

Infection control:

The service appeared to be clean on the day of the fit for purpose inspection. There are fridges available in the service where it is proposed to store the perishable items of children's snacks and meals. All sinks for hand washing in the service are equipped with warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and foot operated pedal bins. All bins in the preschool room and toilet facilities are pedal operated and lidded.

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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)

There are four people trained in first aid responder currently working in the service

(2)

A suitably equipped first aid box is available and is easily accessible in the event of it being needed.

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 firefighting 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)

The current manager is aware of the requirement to carry out monthly fire drills in the premises. There is a template in the service to record the monthly fire drills. The last fire drill was carried out in the service in September 2024.

(b)

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	<p>There is evidence in the service that the annual maintenance of the firefighting equipment in the service was carried out in September 2024. The smoke alarm was serviced in June 2024.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire is displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises at the entrance to the service.</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:

There was adequate insurance in place for the children attending on the day of the fit for purpose inspection.

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 of regulation is met.

(a)

The manager reported no structural defects. There are adequate storage facilities available.

(b)

The building is safe and secure. Access is gained through one of the front doors which opens from the street. The door was secure on arrival and remained secure for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

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The lighting is a combination of natural lighting from several windows and there are also fluorescent lights. The preschool rooms are ventilated through several openable windows. There is an internal ventilation system operating in the sleep room beside the mini shamrocks room.

(d)

The service is clean and well presented. There is no evidence of repairs being required.

(e)

There are three toilets and three wash hand basins for use by the preschool children. There is one nappy changing unit in the service. There is one staff toilet for the exclusive use of the staff working in the service. There is liquid hand soap, paper towels and pedal bins available at all sinks. The sewage is managed through the public system.

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).*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met

Room	Proposed age of children	Measurements	Maximum number of sessional	Maximum number of full day care

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	in the room		children that can be accommodated	children that can be accommodated
Mini Shamrocks	1 to 2 and 2 to 3 years of age	40.56 m ²	10	10
Mighty Shamrocks	3 to 6 years of age	36.5 m ²	20	15

(1)

There is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement for children as stipulated in the above diagram.

(2)

The preschool rooms provide adequate clear floor space as specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 with reference to the proposed ages of children which the service will accommodate.

(3)

The service has adequate floor space for the numbers of children proposed to be facilitated in the service during the sessional hours.

(4)

The service has suitable space for the provision of both:

(a) A sessional service.

(b) Full day care/part-time service.