

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

**Tusla I.D:** TU2024KY002

**Name of Service:** Bright Stars Pre-school

**Address of Service:** Scoil Mhuire  
Brosna  
Tralee  
Co Kerry  
V92 E982

**Email Address:** brightstarsbrosna@gmail.com

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Mairead McEneary

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

**Proposed service type:** Sessional

**Proposed Number of Children:** 11

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection**  
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,) Sessional service for 11 children aged from 2 years to 6 years of age. Hours of operation from 9.00 am until 12 noon.

**Registered service:**

**Date of Inspection:** 1 7 1 0 2 0 2 4

**Inspection Undertaken by:** E. Friel

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** 13 Market Square, Mallow, Cork. P51 DD5Y

**Rationale for Inspection**

**Proposed New Service**

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Sessional Service

**Date of Registration:** 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

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### 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>	Bright Stars Pre-school proposes to operate a private sessional service providing care and education for children aged 2 to 6 years of age. It is proposed that the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme will operate between the hours of 9:00 to 12 noon, Monday to Friday, term time only. The service is currently registered for school age care in the afternoon between the hours of 14:00 until 18:00.
<b>Premises</b>	The registered provider proposes to operate one classroom as a care room, which is located at the rear of Scoil Mhuire National School, in the rural village of Brosna in County Kerry. There are two children's toilets and one adult toilet, provided off the main care room. The proposed service will have access to a designated secure outdoor yard to that is situated to the rear of the national school.
<b>Staffing</b>	The registered provider intends to operate the service single handedly. A second nominated person is available in the event of an emergency.
<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 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</p>

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider who was 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.

The designated person in charge will be the registered provider who intends to operate the service single handedly. A second qualified person is available in the event of an emergency.

### 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)—*

*(c) 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 registered provider shall ensure that an adequate number of adults are working directly with the children at all times.

(8)

(c) The registered provider supplied documentation evidencing that a second person, living nearby, will be available to provide assistance in the event of an emergency.

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 care room was laid out in clearly defined areas with equipment and toys providing play and learning opportunities to enhance the learning needs of the proposed children across all developmental areas. The equipment and toys were located on low-level shelving within easy access of the children, offering choice and encouraging independence.

A number of resources providing opportunities for practicing gross motor skills such as cycling, kicking, throwing and sliding were available in the outdoor play area from resources including ride-ones, bicycles, slides and balls. Sensory materials including sand were available from covered plastic shells.

(b) There was a cosy and inviting designated rest/quiet area with soft furnishings including a child sized couch, and two bean bags. Age and stage appropriate books were available from a basket in the area providing opportunities for language development while resting.

(2)

(a) A secure, dedicated, outdoor play area was located at the rear of the service

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where the proposed children will have access to a large concrete yard and a covered shed to facilitate outdoor play in all weathers. The area was secured with a low concrete wall, high bar metal fencing and the main entrance gate has a sprung metal sliding bolt ensuring children cannot leave the area unsupervised.

### 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 has been shared with the prospective parents/guardians who will be providing the children's snacks.

- Age and stage appropriate cutlery and crockery were available for the children's use.
- The registered provider stated that the children will have access at all times to their individual water bottles and drinking water will be available from the service.
- Perishable food will be stored in the service's fridge to prevent the food from spoiling.
- Alternative food is available and stored in the cupboards and in the fridge.

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.

**General Safety:**

- The internal care room door was secured with a number key pad ensuring that unauthorised adults could not enter the care room. The main fire exit door was fitted with a thumb twist cylinder and a secure device ensuring the children could not leave the building unsupervised.
- The eight openable windows in the care room were at adult height and could not be reached by children. The openable window in the sanitary area was fitted with a window restrictor, reducing the risk of children exiting or falling from it.
- Four blind cords, on the windows in the care room, were secured with hooks and were inaccessible by the children.
- Storage cupboards were anchored ensuring that they could not tip or fall onto a child.
- All electrical flexes were inaccessible in the care room.
- Cleaning agents and adult personal belongings were secure in a cupboard, fitted with a safety latch, under the sink.
- Temperature reducing medication, was available in its original container, stored in a high cupboard above the adult sink area in the care room.
- The television in the room was securely mounted with brackets to the wall.
- The fire assembly point was identified with a sign in the outdoor play area, a suitable distance from the service.

**Infection Control:**

- Sinks and wash hand basins in the care room and sanitary areas were supplied with thermostatically controlled hot water, dispensing soap, dispensing paper towels with pedal operated bins available for the disposal of paper waste.

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- Pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of rubbish in the care room.
- Windows in the care room were open ensuring the circulation of fresh air.
- Cleaning schedule templates were available for the care room and the sanitary areas.
- Cleaning agents were available to prevent the spread of infection.

### 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) The proposed registered provider and the emergency person both have valid First Aid Responder (FAR) certificates, with expiry dates recorded as 15 August 2025
- (2)
- (a) (b) The first aid bag was stored on a shelf, easily accessible by the proposed registered provider. The registered provider stated that the first aid bag will be available at all times while the pre-school children are present in the service.

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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 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) A template was available for recording fire drills in the service. The proposed registered provider was aware that fire drills are carried out on a monthly basis.

(b) Records were available which indicated that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on 28 August 2024 and the smoke alarms on 30 August 2024.

(4) The notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed on the walls of the care room beside the exit door and on wall next to the main fire exit door of the building, opposite the care room.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

Documentation was available to evidence that the service is insured. The certificate stated that the service is insured for 22 children on a sessional basis with an expiry date of 27 March 2025. Separate building insurance was in place.

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 registered provider stated that the service was of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The main entrance was secured with a thumb twist cylinder and a secure device and the care room door was secured with a key pad, ensuring unauthorised adults could not enter the building or care room. The outside play area was secured with a low concrete wall, metal fencing, and a metal gate, secured with a sliding bolt, ensuring children cannot leave the service unsupervised.
- (c) The care room and sanitary areas were supplied with both natural light from windows and artificial light from four covered lights in the care room and the single covered light in the sanitary area. The care room and the sanitary area have natural ventilation from openable windows. Heating is supplied from two oil radiators which have individual thermostats. The room temperature was recorded at 22°C and the radiator temperatures were recorded as 23.3°C.
- (d) The care room had recently been painted and a new linoleum floor was apparent, giving the room a clean, bright and well-maintained appearance. The toys and equipment looked in good condition and were well maintained.
- (e) There were two children’s toilets and one adult toilet with three wash hand basins located off the care room. The registered provider stated that all children attending must be toilet trained before attending the service and that this would be reviewed on a yearly basis.

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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.
- (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) The proposed registered provider has ensured that there will be adequate floor space available for the work, play and movement of the proposed 11 children who will be attending the proposed sessional service.
- (3) The total floor space of 40.3 m<sup>2</sup> is more than adequate for the 11 sessional children proposed with a minimum of 1.818 m<sup>2</sup> of clear floor space available for each child attending the proposed sessional service.