

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024LK004
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Name of Service:	Stepping Stones Preschool
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Address of Service:	St Mary's Boys National School, Church St, Abbeyfeale. Co Limerick
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Email Address:	Georginalyons123@gmail.com
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Georgina Lyons
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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"/>

Proposed service type:	Sessional
Proposed Number of Children:	22
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Sessional service 22 preschool children Age profile 2-6 years Hours of operation 09:30 to 12:30 hrs
Registered service:	Sessional service 22 preschool children Age profile 2-6 years Hours of operation 09:30 to 12:30 hrs

Date of Inspection:	2	3	0	7	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by:	E Browne
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate, Estuary House, Henry St Limerick
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional service 22 preschool 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).

Description of Service	Stepping Stones preschool is a proposed sessional service located in the village of Abbeyfeale in Co. Limerick. Operational hours will be from Monday to Friday 9:30hrs - 12:30hrs for 38 weeks of the year with a maximum of 22 children attending.
Premises	The service proposes to operate from a designated room within the national school. There is one playroom indoors and the service has sole access to an enclosed outdoor play area located at the side of the service. It has suitable sanitary facilities for both adults and children.
Staffing	There will be the registered provider and one staff working in the service. They have the appropriate childcare qualifications.

 An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	Child and Family Agency Act 2013 Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016	Version 04 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.21 F06 FFP (New)	2 of 8
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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	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered who was present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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:

(1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise if required.

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:

(1) The registered provider will ensure that there is an adequate number of staff employed to work at the service. There will be the registered provider and a second adult working in the service each day supervising the proposed number of 22 preschool Early Childhood Education and Care (ECCE) children at any one time.

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:

(1)(a) Facilities for the preschool children to play indoors and outdoors were suitable as there were clearly defined interest areas in the room and sufficient play equipment was evident in the outdoor play area.

(b) Suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day were available in the quiet/rest corner. An adult sized couch was available where both adults and children can sit comfortably, rest and have some quiet time together.

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	(2)(a) A safe secure outdoor space was available on site for outdoor play for the children. Safety in the outside play area has been included in the risk assessment policy for the service.
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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:

Nutritious snacks and drinks will be provided by parents and refrigerated where required. A healthy eating policy for the service has been documented and is available.

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 entrance door was secured preventing unauthorised access and preventing a child leaving the service.

Drinking water was readily available to the children.

Storage for cleaning materials and equipment was provided in a secure area in a cupboard out of reach of the children.

Water temperatures at the wash hand basins were maintained below 43°C. The hot water temperature recorded 34°C at the children’s wash hand basins in the bathroom and at the wash hand basin in the playroom.

Windows have been assessed and made safe to prevent children exiting or falling.

Toys and play equipment were safe and suitable for the age of children using the equipment.

All waste will be inaccessible both indoors and outdoors.

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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:

- (1) The registered provider and the deputy staff member were recently trained in first aid for children (First Aid Responder) and will be available to the children proposing to attend the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available.
- (b) The first aid box will be available to the children attending the pre-school service 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:

- (1)(a) Arrangements are in place to record fire drills that will take place in the premises.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the premises was available. Fire extinguishers were last serviced in June 2024. The smoke alarm system in the preschool and the school was serviced on the 29th of July 2024 and a copy was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

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(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises. The fire assembly point was clearly identified and visible in the school yard.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The insurance quote for the sessional service was available. The insurance certificate was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate on the 31st^{of} July with an expiry date of 27th March 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:

On visual examination the premises was:

- (a) Of sound and stable structure.
- (b) Safe and secure as entrance and exit doors were secured.
- (c) Natural lighting and artificial lighting was available. Natural ventilation was available with openable windows in the room. The heating system included both an oil and an electric system. The boiler was serviced on the 27th of July 2024.
- (d) The room and sanitary areas were clean and cleaning checklists will be documented.

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(e) Suitable sanitary facilities were available as there were two children's toilets and two wash hand basins available just off the playroom. A nappy changing unit is to be installed in the bathroom facility.

Adult sanitary accommodation is also available in the school.

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 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:

(1) Sufficient clear floor space was available in the room for the number of children proposing to attend the pre-school service.

(2) The measurements of the playroom were recorded as

7.30m x 7.0m = 51m².

The following number of children can be accommodated as outlined below for the space of 51 m².

- A minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child proposing to attend for sessional care. This allows at maximum of 22 preschool children.