

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024MH001

Name of Service: Spraioi

Address of Service: Oldbridge Manor, Drogheda, Co Meath A92 Y5TF

Email Address: spraidrogheda@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Joanne Cooney

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

Proposed service type: Proposed to operate a new full day care, part-time and sessional early years service.

Proposed Number of Children: 87

Outcome of the F06 Inspection

- To cater for children aged 1 to 6 years on a sessional, part-time and full day care basis.
- To operate from 7.30am to 6.30pm each weekday for 50 weeks each year.
- The space available in the service will permit a maximum number of 66 pre-school children to be accommodated in the service. The service can be approved to accommodate a maximum of 66 at any one time. The numbers to be accommodated in each room are outlined in Regulation 30.

Registered service: Registered Full Day Care/Part Time/Sessional Service for 66 Children.

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

Inspection Undertaken by: S. Taaffe

Title: Early years inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care/Part Time/Sessional Service for 66 Children.
Date of Registration:	5 th July 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	<p>Spraioi in Drogheda would be the fifth early years service owned and operated by the proposed registered provider in Co Meath and Co Louth, in addition to one separate stand-alone school aged childcare facility, of which some services are jointly owned with a business partner. It is proposed that Spraoi would accommodate pre-school children from 1 – 6 years of age on a sessional, part-time and full day care basis. The service proposes to implement a play-based curriculum for up to 87 pre-school children at any one time, operating from 7.30am to 6.30pm daily for 50 weeks a year, closing for 2 weeks over Christmas annually. Eligible children would be facilitated to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9.00am to 12.00midday and from 9.15 – 12.15pm daily during term time.</p> <p>It is proposed that school aged children are accommodated in the service.</p>
Premises	<p>It is proposed that the new service would be conducted from a recently constructed purpose-built 2-storey detached premises located on a corner site in a newly developed housing estate on the outskirts of Drogheda. There are 4 care rooms provided in the premises, namely the Baby Room and the Toddler Room located on the ground floor, and the Pre-ECCE Room and the ECCE Room located on the first floor. A sleep room is located on the ground floor, adjoining and accessed directly from the Baby Room. Ancillary accommodation includes a reception hall and a kitchen on the ground floor, sanitary facilities on both floors and an office and a staff room on the first floor. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is provided to the rear of the premises.</p>
Staffing	<p>The proposed registered provider has recruited a service manager who would coordinate the day-to-day operational management of the service in conjunction with the registered provider. It is proposed that, in time, a total of 12 - 14 staff members would be employed in the service, including a full time cook and a part-time cleaner, should the service operation reach maximum capacity.</p>
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</p>

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	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 service manager 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:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

It is proposed that the registered provider or the service manager would be the designated person in charge on a daily basis, deputising in each other's absence when 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The proposed registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 and would ensure that an adequate number of adults would at all times work directly with the children in the service.

It is proposed that up to 12 staff members would be employed to care for pre-school children in the proposed service when operating at maximum capacity and that the minimum adult to child ratios are maintained at all times.

(8)(a) The proposed registered provider is aware of the requirement and would ensure that at least 2 adults are on the premises at all times when the service is in operation.

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 four care rooms are resourced with a suitable range of play materials and equipment to facilitate children to engage in meaningful play activities. Interest areas are clearly defined and include well-resourced home corners, shop areas, libraries, construction areas and arts and crafts areas. Age-appropriate play materials to support sensory play are provided in each care room. The play materials and equipment are stored at an accessible level to the pre-school children. A climbing frame with climbing ramp and two slides attached, a smaller A-frame climbing frame with low-level slide, an outdoor kitchen, a hopscotch grid in-laid in the surface and a wall-mounted activity centre are amongst the play equipment provided to facilitate play activities outdoors.

(b) A sleep room containing 3 standard cots is located on the ground floor, adjoining the Baby Room. The proposed registered provider informed the inspector that further cots will be purchased as required once the numbers of children attending the proposed service increases, to ensure that all children aged less than 2 years have access to a standard cot. The proposed registered provider is aware of national safe sleep best practice guidelines. Stackable beds are available for pre-school children aged 2 years and older who would require or wish to sleep or rest in the service. A rest area is available in each care room with soft matting, cushions and soft toys provided close to the libraries to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the day if required.

(2)(a) The outdoor play area is fully enclosed by the outer walls of the premises and by high boundary walls. The outdoor play area is observed to be suitable and secure, and no safety hazards are noted. The area is surfaced in artificial grass with a concrete pathway in place along the rear and sides of the building.

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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 three-week menu is available. The proposed registered provider will provide the children's breakfast, cooked hot dinner and tea on a daily basis which would be cooked on site by the service's cook, whilst parents would provide the morning snacks for children who are accommodated in the Toddler Room, Pre-ECCE Room and ECCE Room. The service will provide the morning snack for children accommodated in the Baby Room. Drinking water is available in the taps in each of the four care rooms which would be made freely available to the children at times of their own choosing.

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 external doors, windows and garden gates are appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The play materials are appropriate for the age range of children proposed to attend the individual care rooms.
- Thermostatically controlled running water is available at the wash hand basins in the service. Liquid soap and paper towels are available at all wash hand basins for the children's and staff members' use.
- The blind cords in the service are appropriately restricted.
- Cleaning agents are inaccessible to children, stored out of children's reach or in locked cupboards.
- A lock is in place on the kitchen door making it inaccessible to children.
- The service's refuse bins are inaccessible to children, stored behind wooden fencing in a designated section of the outdoor area.
- A metal mesh frame is in place to cover the air to water heat pump unit in the outdoor area, making it inaccessible to children.

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 service manager are aware of the requirement for a person with in-date first aid response (FAR) training to be at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. There is evidence available in the service to show that five recruited staff members hold in-date FAR training.

(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is available on each floor and a third first aid box is stored in the kitchen, available at all times for the children if necessary.

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) A template is available which would be used to record fire drills that would take place on a monthly basis at the service.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The fire fighting equipment is certified as having been serviced on 11/05/2024 and a certificate for the design, installation and commissioning of the fire detection and alarm system dated 29/05/2024 is available on the premises.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the care rooms and in the ancillary accommodation. A fire assembly point is identified with clear signage in place at the edge of the car park to the front of the premises.

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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 proposed registered provider has insurance in place to cover up to 75 pre-school children attending on a full day care basis. The service is insured from 02/07/2024 – 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 a recently constructed purpose-built childcare facility which appears to be in good condition throughout.

(b) The premises appears safe and is found to be appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. Digital locks are in place on the two doors leading from the reception area to the ground floor corridor and onwards to the care rooms, and to the stairs and care rooms on the first floor. Glass panels are in place at the front door allowing staff members to see parents and visitors on their arrival to the service, in order to facilitate their entry if appropriate.

(c)

Lighting:

The premises is adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating:

The premises is heated by means of an air to water heat pump. The proposed registered provider states that all radiators which are accessible to children are thermostatically controlled not to exceed 50.0°C.

The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation are found to be within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection.

The proposed registered provider is aware of the safe sleep ambient temperature range of 18-22°C if all sleeping children are aged 1 year or older. A thermometer is provided in the sleep room to accurately monitor the ambient temperature.

Ventilation:

Ventilation in the care rooms, all sanitary areas and the sleep room is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents.

(d) The premises is in a clean condition and in a good state of repair.

(e) Adequate sanitary accommodation is provided for the number of children proposed to attend.

One toilet for children, one staff toilet, one nappy changing unit and two wash hand basins are provided in the sanitary areas adjacent to and directly accessible from the Baby Room.

Two children’s toilets, two wash hand basins and one nappy changing unit are provided in the sanitary area adjacent to and directly accessible from the remaining three care rooms, namely the Toddler Room, the Pre-ECCE Room and the ECCE Room. A separate toilet which facilitates disabled access and an accompanying wash hand basin, provided on the ground floor, is designated for use by staff members.

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.*

Requirement met:

- (1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement for a maximum number of 66 pre-school children in the proposed service.
- (2) The registered provider is aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7.
- The clear floor space in the Baby Room (Room 2) measured 27.22 square metres which meets the space requirements for a maximum number of 9 children aged 1-2 years attending the service on a part-time or on a full day care basis.
 - The clear floor space in the Toddler Room (Room 1) measured 32.55 square metres which meets the space requirements for a maximum number of 13 children aged 2-3 years attending the service on a part-time or on a full day care basis.
 - The clear floor space in the Pre-ECCE Room (Room 4) measured 45 square metres. This meets the space requirements for the proposed maximum number of 22 eligible children availing of the Early Childhood Care and

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Education (ECCE) scheme, or 19 pre-school children aged 3 to 6 years attending the service on a part-time or on a full day care basis.

- The clear floor space in the ECCE Room (Room 3) measured 51.3 square metres. This meets the space requirements for the proposed maximum number of 22 eligible children availing of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme, and 22 pre-school children aged 3 to 6 years attending the service on a part-time or on a full day care basis.