

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024MH002

Name of Service: Cookies Early Learning Centre

Address of Service: 60 Castletown Manor, Athboy, Co Meath

Email Address: Inquiry.cookieselcathboy@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Megan Cooke Smith

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

Proposed service type: Sessional, Part-Time/Full Day care Service

Proposed Number of Children: 66

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

Type of service: Sessional, Part-Time/Full Day care Service
Numbers of children: 63 based on Regulation 29 and Regulation 30.
Age range: 2 to 6 years
Operating Hours: 07:30am to 18:00pm

Registered service: Full Day Care 63 children.

Date of Inspection:	2	8	1	1	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by: D.Murray

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Early Years Inspectorate
Meath Child & Parent Support Hub,
Commons Road,
Navan, Co. Meath

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Full Day Care 63 children.

Date of Registration: 13th December 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).

Description of Service	The proposed new service intends to provide full day care, part-time, sessional service to children aged from 2 to 6 years. It is proposed that the service will operate from 07:30hrs to 18:00hrs each weekday catering for a maximum of 63 children. The service proposes to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme. A school aged service will also be provided.
Premises	The service is purpose built consisting of 3 care rooms. The registered provider is purposing the following: Seomra Solas na Gréine will cater for children from 2 to 3 years attending the service on a part time, full day care basis. Seomra Réaltá Lámhach will provide care and education to children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years attending the service on a sessional basis from 09:30am to 12:30pm. This room will accommodate school aged children in the afternoon. Seomra Tuar Ceatha will provide care and education to children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years attending the service on a sessional basis/full day care basis. Other rooms in the service also include staff room, kitchen, office, staff and children's sanitary accommodation.
Staffing	A service manager has been appointed to manage the service and will be the person in charge of operating the service. The registered provider will be the deputy person in charge for the initial opening period. The registered provider is purposing a total of 10 staff members to work in the service.
Methodology	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

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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>
Acknowledgement	The Inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed manager 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:	<p>(1)(a) The requirement has been met.</p> <p>A manager has been appointed and will be the designated person in charge of operating the service. The registered provider will be the named person to deputise for the initial opening period.</p>
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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:

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

(1) The requirement has been met. A manager has been appointed along with 10 staff members to work directly with the children attending 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:

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

The care rooms have low shelving units available for the storage of toys and equipment for the children. Areas of interest are well developed with supporting equipment which incorporates natural and sensorial materials, art and crafts and a range of suitable toys.

(b) The requirement has been met.

Stackable beds are available which will be placed in Seomra Solas na Gréine and Seomra Tuar Ceatha for the children requiring sleep. Cosy areas consisting of children's couches and mats are available in all care rooms for children to take a break from activities and rest if needed.

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

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An outdoor space is located to the rear of the premises, which is enclosed with walls and has 2 secure side gates. The surface area consists of an artificial grass surface. Equipment includes a kitchen, goal posts, slides, ride on toys, counting stand, children's table, plastic climbing frame and building blocks.

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 is available for the service. The ECCE children will bring their own morning snack from home. The service will provide the remainder of the meals which will be prepared onsite. The service has a 4 week menu plan with a variety of dishes ranging from meat, chicken, fish and a vegetarian option. A constant supply of water will also be available and accessible to the children in the care rooms.

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:

- On the day of inspection both the indoor and outdoor environment appeared safe. Risk assessments will be conducted on a daily basis. The manager has a clear understanding of her role and range of responsibilities to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the children.

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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) An adequate number of staff are available with up to date First Aid Responders course.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid boxes are suitably equipped and safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position throughout the service and is available 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A template is available to record fire drills that take place in the service.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment which was last serviced on the 21/11/2024. The smoke detection system was serviced on the 13/11/2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed on the premises. The fire assembly point is located to the side entrance of the service.

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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 registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for the number of purposed children attending the service. The policy showed that the service was insured from 11/11/2024 to the 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 appear to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) The main entrance door is secure and the outdoor area is enclosed by walls with 2 secure side gates.

(c)

- The care room and the sanitary facilities in the service have a number of windows which provides these areas with natural light. Artificial lighting is also provided through ceiling panels in all rooms. Mechanical ventilation is available in the sanitary areas. Air vents and an air filtration system is in place in the remainder of the service.
- The heating system in the service is regulated by a thermostatically controlled Air to Water heat pump with radiators mounted to the wall. The temperature of the care rooms ranges between 18.0°C to 19.8°C on the day of inspection.

(d) The service is clean with all maintenance work completed.

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	<p>(e)The following sanitary facilities are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two staff sanitary closet. • In total the service has 7 children’s toilets with partitions and doors and large longitudinal sinks with 7 taps. Additional sinks and taps are available in all care rooms • A nappy changing unit mounted to the wall is available downstairs in the staff toilet.Two additional wall mounted nappy changing units have been ordered and will be installed if required depending on the number of children wearing nappies. • Warm water not exceeding 43°C, liquid soap and hand paper towel is provided for hand washing.
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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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space was available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(2) Based on the measurements of the care room the registered provider ensured that the minimum amount of clear floor space is available for each child proposing to attend the service on a part- time basis.

(3) The registered provider ensured that a minimum space of 1.81 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service on a sessional basis.

(4) (a)&(b)

Seomra Solas na Gréine

Free floor space available is 45.36square meters. This provides sufficient space for the proposed:

19 children between the ages of 2 to 3 years attending the service on a sessional basis.

Seomra Réaltá Lámhach

Free floor space available is 53.40 square meters. This provides sufficient space for the proposed:

29 children between the age of 2 years 8 months to 6 years attending the service on a sessional basis.

Seomra Tuar Ceatha

Free floor space available is 28.96 square meters. This provides sufficient space for the proposed:

12 children between the ages of 2 years 8 months to 6 years attending the service on a full day care basis or

15 children between the age of 2 years 8 months to 6 years attending the service on a sessional basis.