

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024MO001

Name of Service: Making Memories Pre-School

Address of Service: West Car Park, Knock, Co Mayo, F12NY07

Email Address: nicolacarty141@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Nicola Carty

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 Service

Proposed Number of Children: 22 Children

Outcome of the F06 Inspection: Sessional Service, 22 children, age range 2 – 6 years, 09:30 – 12:30

Registered service: Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children

Date of Inspection:	0	5	0	1	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by: L. Costello and N. McEndoo

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Year’s Inspectorate, Markievicz House
Barrack Street, Sligo, F91XC84

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children

Date of Registration: 15th January 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 applicant in proposing to operate a sessional service to cater for a maximum of 22 children aged 2.8 years to 6 years of age. It is proposed that there will be one playroom in operation, with a second room available for art work.
Premises	The premises is in the town of Knock. The service will operate from a converted day care centre. The service will consist of one playroom, one art room access to a kitchen and sanitary accommodation for the children and staff. The outdoor area is located adjacent to the premises, which consists of a large, enclosed grass area.
Staffing	It is proposed that there will be two staff members working directly with the children.
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 Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider 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.

(1), (a).

There is a designated person in charge and a deputy available to deputise as required. The registered provider informed the inspectors that she has recruited for relief staff to assist as 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)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(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) It is proposed that a minimum of two staff members will be working directly with the preschool children. The allocation of staff to children outlined by the registered provider is accepted as meeting the required adult child ratios.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1), (a).

The preschool room was a bright welcoming and spacious environment with a range of appropriate learning materials for children. The room was laid out to provide various interest areas for the children to explore and all interest areas were well resourced. Interest areas included, home and kitchen, shop area, dolls and baby care, art and crafts area, library and reading corner and construction area.

Open low-level shelving was used to provide easy access to play resources such as jigsaws, building blocks, puzzles and tabletop activities. Suitable sized tables and chairs were provided for tabletop activities and snack time.

The various play materials and equipment provide opportunities for all types of play experiences including play that promotes children’s cognitive skills, fine motor development, creative and messy play, role and imaginary play. There is ample space between each area to allow for free movement of children and facilities available for individual or group play.

1),(b).

The service has provided adequate rest area for children to take a break or opt out of activities if they choose. This area consists of a cozy corner with soft furnishings, floor mat, cushions and an armchair.

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	<p>(2)(a)</p> <p>The outdoor play area is a fully enclosed area located to the rear of the building. The registered provider has assured that a risk assessment will be completed each morning to ensure the safety of the area before use. The outdoor area is secure by a wall and gate. The outdoor area is equipped with playhouses, tyres and sensory tables. A natural growth area provides opportunity for imaginary play.</p>
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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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>It is proposed that all lunches and snacks will be provided from home. The service has a healthy eating policy in place for parents with examples of healthy snacks. The healthy eating policy also states what food is not acceptable. There is a kitchen on site with a fridge where all perishable items can be stored. Clean and safe drinking water will be always available and accessible to children.</p>
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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:	<p>The following measures were noted on the day of inspection to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate measures were in place to ensure that children could not exit the premises unsupervised, or adults could not enter without permission. The main entrance door to the service was secured with a keypad lock entry system.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitary areas were provided with appropriate hand washing facilities with paper towels, liquid soap and foot operated bins. • Main waste storage bins were in a secure area away from the children’s play areas. Foot pedal operated bins are available within the room. • Cleaning equipment and products were stored away from children’s access. Cleaning duties and records were in place and ready for use. • All exit routes within the service were free from obstruction. • Toys and play resources were noted to be clean, in good repair and appropriate for children’s use. • A fridge for storing children’s snacks which contain perishable items is available in the kitchen adjacent to the playroom
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>The following was observed on the day that required attention to ensure the safety and welfare of the preschool child attending the service:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The hot water supply at one of the children’s wash hand basins was not thermostatically controlled and exceeded the maximum safe limit of 43°C. 2. The hot water at the staff’s wash hand basin exceeded the maximum safe limit of 43°C. 3. The footpaths through the outdoor area were covered with wet leaves and posed a slip hazard, one area of footpath had wet papers that required removing. 4. The natural play area with trees and bushes required a tidy up as some broken branches were at child’s eye level. 5. Drain covers on two drains (one at the corner entrance to the service and a second in the outdoor area) did not have the correct drain cover resulting in a large dip, causing a trip hazard. 6. A broken metal pipe in the outdoor area posed a risk of injury to the child. 7. The wooden surround of the fireplace in the main care room required to be painted and corner bumpers were required on sharp edges.

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	<p>8. TV wires and cables were exposed in the main care room and required to be secure.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Temperature regulating valve fitted to ensure water temperature does not exceed the maximum safe limit of 43°C. (photographic evidence submitted) 2. Temperature regulating valve fitted to ensure water temperature does not exceed the safe limit of 43°C. (photographic evidence submitted) 3. Footpaths have been cleared of slip hazards. (photographic evidence submitted) 4. Natural tree area cut back. (photographic evidence submitted). 5. Drain covers installed. (photographic evidence submitted) 6. Pipe removed. (photographic evidence submitted) 7. Fireplace has been painted and corner bumpers installed. (photographic evidence submitted). 8. TV cables removed. (photographic evidence submitted)
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>The inspectorate has reviewed the evidence submitted by the registered provider regarding the non-compliances found on inspection. The corrective actions taken by the registered provider have been accepted and this requirement is now met.</p>

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:

This requirement has been met.

1) Evidence of one person’s first aid certificate that is employed to work directly with the preschool children was reviewed by the inspector and were observed to have an expiry date of August 2025.

(2)(a)(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box is provided in the service. The first aid box is clearly identifiable and easily accessible in the playroom and is always accessible to children.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The registered provider informed the inspectors of the provisions that were in place for documenting fire drills carried out once the service commences.

(1)(b)

A record of the number and type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarm systems to be used in the service were furnished to the inspector. The

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servicing of the fire and smoke alarm system was up to date with the most recent service date 18.12.2023.

(4)

Notices of the evacuation procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed on the wall in the playroom.

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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:

This requirement has been met.
Insurance was submitted to the Registration Office covering a maximum of 22 children on a sessional basis, valid until 27/03/24.

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:

(a)
The premises consists of a converted day centre. The pre-school service is to occupy half of the ground floor building. On superficial visual inspection, the building appeared of sound structure with no visible defects. The registered providers confirmed that they have no concerns over the stability or structure of the building.

(b)
The service was adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry. The entrance door into the building for the Pre-school is secured with a keypad entry system and a magnetic release system. The release mechanism is set at a level above children’s reach.

(c)
Lighting.
Adequate natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting was provided in the pre-school room. The playroom contained three large glass windows along one wall one of which can be opened. A second wall consisted of three long narrow windows

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	<p>providing natural light. The second room the conservatory provided three walls of glass and natural light. Artificial lighting in the main play room consists of four round fluorescent ceiling lights in the playroom with four spot lights. Circular dome ceiling lights in the sanitary accommodation were provided Lights were fully encased in protective covers.</p> <p>Heating.</p> <p>The playroom and sanitary accommodation are provided with radiators which are connected to the oil heating system for the whole building. The air temperature of the area when checked at inspection was within the recommended range of 18 – 22°C.</p> <p>Ventilation.</p> <p>Natural ventilation was provided by one openable window in the playroom. The sanitary accommodation for children and adults contained both mechanical ventilation and a large openable skylight in one child’s sanitary area.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>The building was clean on the day of inspection. The building is connected to a mains water supply providing appropriate drinking water for staff and children and running water for cleaning. The building owners have a contract in place for pest control.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>The premises was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. Two toilets and two wash hand basins are provided for children off the playroom. Each toilet is sufficiently enclosed to ensure adequate privacy. A separate staff toilet is provided with a wash hand basin.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(c) Evidence of dampness was observed in the corner of the main playroom, this required treatment and cleaning. Two of the windows in the care room could not be opened on the day of inspection.</p>

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	(d) The walls in the conservatory had evidence of flaking paint and required to be painted.
Response from Provider:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows are now fixed and can be open. (evidence submitted) • The conservatory has been painted. (evidence submitted) The registered provider has informed the inspectorate that further painting will be completed in 3-4 weeks.
Summary Comment:	The inspectorate has reviewed the evidence submitted by the registered provider regarding the non-compliances found on inspection. The corrective actions taken by the registered provider have been accepted and this requirement is now met.

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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children.</p> <p>(2) The size of the proposed preschool room measured at 49.319m² on the day of inspection, ensured that the required floor space for a maximum number of 22 preschool children in the proposed age range attending on a sessional basis has been met.</p>
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