

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024WW005
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Name of Service:	Little Bunnies Montessori
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Address of Service:	Parochial Hall Novara Avenue Bray Co. Wicklow A98 EK71
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Email Address:	aislingwalsh086@gmail.com
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Aisling Walsh
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input 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 and Part-Time
Proposed Number of Children:	44
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Sessional service Part-Time service Two to six years of age Operational hours 9:00am to 2:00pm
Registered service:	Registered Part time, Sessional service 44 children.

Date of Inspection:	3	0	0	8	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by:	H. Bourke
Title:	Early Years Inspector

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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Tusla Child and Family Agency
	First Floor Trinity Building
	IDA Business Park
	Southern Cross Road
	Bray
	Co. Wicklow

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Part time, Sessional service 44 children.
Date of Registration:	06 th September 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	The proposed private childcare service aims to provide sessional and part-time care facilities for children aged between two and six years of age. The service proposes to accommodate 44 children on a sessional basis. There is also a proposed afterschool service.
Premises	The proposed premises is a converted, single storey parochial hall which will accommodate the childcare service. There are two care rooms for the proposed children. There is a staff room, kitchen, staff toilet and one more single room which is not in use.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider has appointed a manager and deputy manager for the service. There will be five adults working with the children and these adults have all

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	attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and person in charge who were 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)

The proposed registered provider has ensured that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person 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.

(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 service proposes to accommodate 44 children on a sessional basis with an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times. There will be five staff members employed in the service.

(8)(c)

Not applicable as this is not a sessional service that operates single handedly.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

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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 proposed service comprises of two care rooms, Room 1 (The Burrow) and Room 2 (The Hutch). The rooms are bright and spacious and well laid out to cater for the age range of children who will be attending in each room. Montessori toys, dolls, colouring pencils, construction area, a cosy area consisting of a large sofa, puzzles and jigsaws were amongst the age-appropriate toys and equipment that will be available for the children attending the service.

(b)

Low level beds, with suitable bedding have been provided for children over two years of age, who may require sleep. In addition, there are suitable rest areas provided in each care room.

(2)(a)

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There is a large enclosed outdoor area provided to the side and rear of the premises; this area can only be accessed from the corridor linking the two care rooms. The area is suitable, safe and secure.

This outdoor space consists of a large, artificial grass area. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area. There was an assortment of suitable toys available for all proposed age groups who will be attending the pre-school.

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.

The parents of the children proposing to attend the service on a sessional basis will provide all the snacks the children require. The snacks will need to be in line with the Healthy Eating Policy of the proposed service. Refrigerated storage facilities are available for perishable snacks.

Portable water will be available for all children. The proposed registered provider will provide a healthy snack for the children partaking of the part-time service.

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:

This requirement has been met.

- The manager stated the front door will be locked at all times, ensuring children cannot leave the service unsupervised and unauthorised access to the service cannot occur.

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- The emergency exit door was unobstructed.
- Storage is available for children’s belongings.
- Cleaning materials and equipment are locked in a cupboard in the service
- The kitchen is inaccessible to children.
- A fridge is available in each proposed care room for the storage of perishable snacks.
- A cleaning schedule for toys and equipment was available.
- The sanitary accommodations were well stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and warm water. The warm water temperature was recorded at 38.2°C. Hand dryers were mounted on the walls at an accessible height for the proposed children to dry their hands. Foot pedal bins were available in all sanitary areas and both care rooms.
- Outdoor waste facilities are inaccessible to children.
- The proposed pre-school rooms are ventilated by fresh air return units and sanitary accommodations are ventilated by mechanical ventilation.

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 manager has a current certification in FAR training.

(2)(a)

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	<p>A suitably equipped first aid box was available for the proposed service, with additional first aid boxes in both proposed pre-school rooms.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>The first aid boxes were clearly identifiable and readily accessible.</p>
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

<p>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—</p> <p>(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and</p> <p>(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.</p>	
Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The proposed manager has indicated that fire drills will be carried out in both pre-school rooms when the day care service is fully operational.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>The maintenance record for both the firefighting equipment and the smoke detection system was available and dated 29th of August 2024 and 30th of July 2024 respectively.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>There were notices available in conspicuous positions in the proposed care rooms of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.</p>

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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 requirement has been met. The registration team received a copy of adequate insurance from 05/09/2024 to 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 proposed service is located on the ground floor of an adapted parochial facility and appeared to be of a sound and stable structure.

(b)

The point of entry to the service is through the main door. This door has a double key locking facility which will be managed by the proposed manager and staff of the service.

The outdoor area is secured with a high wooden fence and a gate at the side entrance which can only be opened from inside the garden. This gate has a locking mechanism on the inside, and this is to prevent a child leaving unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the outdoor area.

(c)

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The premises benefits from natural light via windows in the proposed pre-school rooms. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from recessed ceiling lights in the rooms. The care rooms will be heated by thermostatically controlled electric heaters. Windows in the proposed care rooms cannot be opened but there is a combination of natural fresh air return units in the care rooms and mechanical ventilation in the sanitary areas.

(d)

A cleaning schedule was in place in both proposed pre-school rooms. The premises and surrounding environment were clean and well maintained.

(e)

There was sanitary accommodation located within Room 1 (The Burrow) and Room 2 (The Hutch).

Room 1 had two separate child size toilets and two sinks. Room 2 had two separate child-sized toilets and two sinks. A separate toilet and wash hand basin was available for adults working in the proposed service. Thermostatically controlled hot water was available in the children's sanitary areas and the temperature of the water in the low sinks was 38.2°C.

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.

(4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both,

the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

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(1)

Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated below:

(4) (a)(b)

The clear floor space in Room 1 (The Burrow) measured 45.63 square metres, and in Room 2 (The Hutch) measured 43.10 square metres, allowing for a total of 44 children on a sessional basis and 37 on a part-time basis in the proposed age range.