

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024DL001
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Name of Service:	Elaine's Wains
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Address of Service:	Monglass, Newtowncunningham, Donegal. F93 RX7A
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Email Address:	elainebrogan@hotmail.com
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Elaine McErlean
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time		Drop-In	
	Sessional		Childminding	✓	Temporary	

Proposed service type:	Childminder
Proposed Number of Children:	5
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Childminding service caring for five children aged 0-4 years operating from 8.00am-6.00pm each weekday.
Registered service:	Childminding Service for 5 Children

Date of Inspection:	0	3	0	7	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by:	L McGlynn
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Childminding Service for 5 Children
Date of Registration:	26 th July 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	Elaine's Wains proposes to provide a childminding service caring for up to five children aged between 0-4 years. The service will operate from 8.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday throughout the calendar year.
Premises	The service proposes to operate from a detached two-story family home situated in a rural area in north Donegal. The rooms in the family home proposed for use by the childminding service include the entrance hallway, a designated playroom, a sleep room and a bathroom. An enclosed outdoor play area is directly accessible from the playroom.
Staffing	The service will be staffed by one adult who is the registered provider, and a second person will be available to assist in the event of an emergency.
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 four themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the Child, Safety and Premises. 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.
Acknowledgement	The Inspector wishes 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The proposed registered provider will be the designated person in charge and the service will not operate without the presence of the registered provider.

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

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) An adequate number of adults are proposed to be available to work with the children as one adult will be available to work directly with five preschool children. It was acknowledged on the inspection that no more than two children under the age of 15 months can be cared for in the proposed childminding service at any one time unless they are siblings.

(8)(b) A second person who is familiar with the service and working in close proximity to the premises is to be available to provide assistance in the event of an emergency.

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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) There was one designated playroom adjacent to the main living space in the family home for use by children attending the service. The room was a bright, welcoming and spacious environment equipped with a range of age-appropriate learning materials for children. The equipment was laid out in a manner that provided a range of interest areas for children to explore independently. Low level open shelving housed baskets of play items and a kitchen area, farm area, construction materials and small world play items were all available within the room to support the progressing learning needs of children. A small area was also identified for use by younger babies, not yet mobile which included soft floor matting with a range of accessible play materials.
- (b) There was a designated sleep room off the entrance hall containing two standard cots to provide for the sleep needs of younger children. The proposed registered provider informed the inspector that a third cot was also ordered. The registered provider confirmed that children will be monitored by way of physical sleep checks at no more than 10 minute intervals.

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(2) (a) Large glass panelled double doors in the playroom led directly out to a fully enclosed paved outdoor play space. There were play items in the space for children's use and the convenient location of the area will allow for free movement of children between the indoor and outdoor environments.

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:

This requirement has been met.

The registered provider proposes to prepare all meals and snacks in the domestic kitchen. Milk and water will be provided by the service and available to children throughout the day. It is proposed that a weekly menu plan will be available to parents and the dietary requirements of individual children will be met. A healthy eating policy was developed for the service and submitted with the application. There were two highchairs which conformed to safety standards available to assist with feeding of young children in the service. Refrigeration for perishable foods and snacks, cutlery, crockery and wash up facilities were available in the domestic kitchen.

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.

- Entry points to the home were secured to prevent unauthorised access and all exit routes were adequately secure to prevent the unsupervised exit of a child. Stair gates were used throughout the home to prevent children accessing areas in the home that contained hazardous or potentially harmful household items.

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- All toys and equipment appeared to be in good condition, well maintained and appropriate for the age groups the service proposes to care for. There were no observable hazards in the playroom or in any of the areas accessible to children.
- The utility room off the kitchen provided a suitable area for the storage of cleaning equipment and chemicals which will not be accessible to children. Medication is to be stored in a high-level press in the kitchen, out of children's reach.
- Emergency exit routes were free from obstruction and the designated fire assembly point was easily identifiable.
- Evidence was submitted following the inspection to demonstrate that windows had been appropriately secured with a latch mechanism.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available throughout the home for the safe disposal of waste items and large waste storage outdoors was inaccessible to children.
- Each of the areas indoors that are proposed to be accessible to children were ventilated with openable windows to provide a circulation of fresh air when required.
- Evidence was submitted following inspection to demonstrate that water in the wash hand basin for use by children had been thermostatically controlled. Liquid soap and single use drying cloths were observed on the day of inspection to support effective handwashing.

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.

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Requirement met:	This requirement has been met. (1) The proposed registered provider had certification to confirm up to date training in first aid responder which expires on 14 November 2024. (2) (a) (b) An adequately stocked first aid box was located on a high-level press the kitchen which is readily available if required.
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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 proposed registered provider has indicated that fire drills will be carried out when the service is operational. A record of fire drills will be maintained. (b) A record relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was submitted following the inspection. The service of the firefighting equipment, fire detection and alarm system were dated 8 July 2024. (4) The fire assembly point was identified to the inspector and the proposed registered provider was conversant on the procedure to follow in the event of an emergency evacuation.
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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.

Evidence of insurance for the required number of children was submitted to the Registration Office.

Registration of the service is contingent on the registered provider's compliance with Regulation 28.

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 service proposes to operate from a newly constructed dwelling house built with concrete blocks and rendered in smooth plaster. The proposed registered provider confirmed that they have no knowledge or concerns around the structural integrity of the building. On superficial visual inspection, there was no evidence of structural defects on the interior or exterior of the building.
- (b) The service was adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry.
- (c) There was adequate heat, lighting and ventilation in the service. The lighting was provided by natural light leading from openable windows supplemented with recessed spotlights and a high-level light fitting in one area. The playroom and sanitary accommodation were ventilated by openable windows and there was mechanical air purification system throughout the home. The rooms were heated by a

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domestic geothermal heating system and each area was thermostatically controlled within the required ranges for sleep and care rooms.

(d) The premises appeared to be in a good state of repair and was clean on the day of inspection. The building was connected to a mains water supply providing appropriate drinking water and running water for cleaning.

(e) The sanitary facilities in the service were adequately equipped with wash hand basins and toilets for the number of adults and children that will be in attendance. There was one toilet, one wash hand basin and one nappy changing bench available for children's use.