

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

**Tusla I.D:** TU2025CC001

**Name of Service:** MFRC2

**Address of Service:** Business & Technology Park, Model Farm Road, Co  
Cork, T12 VA06

**Email Address:** elaine.bermingham@bestcreche.ie

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Elaine Bermingham

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

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| <b>Proposed service type:</b>  | Sessional  |
| <b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>  | 44   |
| <b>Outcome of the F06 Inspection</b><br>(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,) | Sessional service for 22 children, aged three to six years. Hours of operation from 9.00am to 12.00pm. |
| <b>Registered service:</b>   | Registered Sessional service for 22 children.  |

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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
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**Inspection Undertaken by:** D Prendergast

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork T23 X440.

### Rationale for Inspection

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### Proposed New Service

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

|                              |   |
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| <b>Registration Status:</b>  | Registered Sessional service for 22 children. |
| <b>Date of Registration:</b> | 09/06/2025                                    |

### 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).

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| <b>Description of Service</b> | It is proposed that MFRC <sup>2</sup> Limited will provide a sessional service, that caters for children aged three to six years. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme will be accommodated from 9.00am to 12.00pm, each Monday to Friday, over a 38-week annual period.   |
| <b>Premises</b>               | The proposed premises is located in an urban business park. It consists of a single storey, detached building, which has been purposely adapted to cater for school age and early years children. There are five care rooms in total, three of which are currently allocated for school age children. Child sanitary facilities are available adjacent to the proposed early years care room and an outdoor play area is directly accessible from the same room. |
| <b>Staffing</b>               | It is proposed that two staff will work at the service, both of whom will be involved in the direct care of the children. The proposed registered provider will be based at the adjacent childcare facility.   |
| <b>Methodology</b>            | 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.  |

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|                        | 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. |
| <b>Acknowledgement</b> | The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and the proposed person in charge, 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.*

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| <b>Requirement met:</b> | The requirement has been met.<br><br>(1)<br><br>(a) A proposed person in charge and a deputy have been identified. Written information to this effect is visible in the entrance area of the setting. |
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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.*

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| <b>Requirement met:</b> | The requirement has been met.<br><br>(1) It is proposed that 2 adults will work with 22 children. The age range of the children will be three to six years and the children will attend a sessional category service. |
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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:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) The room has been furnished and laid out in consideration of the developmental needs and age range of the children. There is a sufficient quantity of child sized tables and chairs available and play resources are visible and accessible at child height. For example, interest items such as jigsaws, connectable shapes, animal figures and Montessori materials are arranged on low-level, open shelving. A well equipped home corner is also provided in the care room, along with a furnished dolls house and art and craft materials.

The outdoor play space is fully enclosed by high-level fencing and includes a variety of surfaces. There is a large climbing frame accessible, as well as seesaws, ride on toys and digging equipment.

(b) A teepee, furnished with a selection of cushions and soft toys, has been developed as a rest area. This is positioned on a colourful floor mat, next to a book rack.

(2)

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(a) The sessional pre-school application was submitted by the registered provider after 30 June 2016 and the designated outdoor play area of the proposed service is available on the premises.

### 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 in place. It is proposed that the children’s parents or caregivers will provide the snacks for their mealtimes. Upon the children’s arrival at the setting, staff members will ensure that all perishable foods are refrigerated. Additional snacks will also be available at the service, as needed. Potable water will be accessible to children throughout the sessional period. A supply of suitable crockery and cutlery are stored in the 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:

The requirement has been partially met.

##### General safety:

- Firefighting equipment is secured.
- Cleaning agents are stored out of the children’s reach.
- There are no cables or trailing flexes accessible to the children.
- All examined play materials were maintained in good working order.

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|                                | <p><b>Infection control:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suitable handwashing and drying facilities are available, including a supply of warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and a lidded, pedal-operated bin.</li> <li>Wall hook storage is in place for the children’s coats and bags.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Requirement not met:</b>    | <p><b>General safety:</b></p> <p>There is no fire exit signage in place in the proposed care room. This poses a risk that staff and children may be unclear in relation the safest exit route, in the event of an emergency.</p>  |
| <b>Response from Provider:</b> | <p>The written response stated that a fire exit sign has been installed above one of the two internal doors, that lead to the hallway and that additional signage has been installed on the reverse side. Photographic evidence to this effect was submitted.</p>   |
| <b>Summary Comment:</b>        | <p>The requirements of Regulation 23 have been 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*

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| <b>Requirement met:</b> | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Two of the proposed staff members hold in-date First Aid Responder (FAR) certification.</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>(a) The first aid cabinet is located in an area that is out of reach of children, while easily accessible to adults. A well-stocked supply cupboard is also provided.</p> |
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(b) The first aid supplies will be consistently available, should they be required.

### 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 firefighting 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) Record templates are in place to document the fire drills that will be conducted.

The proposed registered provider is aware of the requirement to undertake monthly fire drills.

(b) A written inventory of the firefighting equipment is available. Certified documentation states that the fire detection and alarm system was serviced on 14 April 2025 and the maintenance certification on file for the firefighting equipment is dated 6 November 2024.

(4) A notice outlining the fire evacuation procedure is displayed in the corridor.

The fire assembly point is clearly signposted in the outdoor play area.

### 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.

Adequate insurance cover is in place for the sessional service and is valid until 27 March 2026.

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**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*

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| <b>Requirement met:</b> | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(a) The proposed service is located within a premises which appears to be structurally sound.</p> <p>(b) The main access door is fob operated from the exterior and a fob key is also required to exit through the same door. These safety precautions will reduce the risk of unauthorised entry and minimise the risk of a child exiting unsupervised.</p> <p>(c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A supply of natural light through large windows and a glass panel door, is available in the care room. This is supplemented with artificial LED lighting, encased in protective covers. Adequate lighting has also been ensured in the other areas of the service, including in the sanitary facility and in the kitchen.</li> <li>• The service has electric storage heating. The air temperature of the care room was recorded at 18.9°C and the sanitary facility had an air temperature of 19.7°C.</li> <li>• Openable windows provide a natural source of ventilation in the care room. There is a combination of mechanical ventilation and openable windows in the children’s sanitary facility.</li> </ul> <p>(d) A cleaning schedule has been developed to record regular cleaning of the various areas within the service. The care room and the adjacent sanitary facility are</p> |
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|  | <p>maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.</p> <p>(e) The children’s sanitary facility is equipped with a total of seven toilets and seven wash hand basins. Some of these toilets and wash hand basins are allocated for school age children. As it is proposed that all of the children will be toilet trained, a nappy changing unit will not be required. A staff toilet facility, with one toilet and one wash hand basin is available for use by the adults.</p> |
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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.*
- (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.*

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| <b>Requirement met:</b> | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) There is sufficient clear floor space available for the free movement of children within the care room, during work and play time.</p> <p>(3) Based on the proposed age range and number of children, there is adequate space available for 22 children to attend the sessional service. ECCE Room 1 was measured at 44.51m<sup>2</sup>.</p> |
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