

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2025CC002

Name of Service: Blue Nest

Address of Service: 7 Millbrook Crescent, Mill Road, Midleton, Co Cork
P25 TH29.

Email Address: bluenest.midleton@outlook.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Maria Jesus Quiros Pindado

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Drop-In	
	Sessional	✓	Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed service type: Full Day Care, Part time and Sessional

Proposed Number of Children: 33

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,) Full Day Care, Part Time & Sessional service for 33 sessional children (Max 16 Full Day Care) aged 2 to 6 years from 7.30am to 6.00pm.

Registered service: Registered Full Day Care, Part Time and Sessional service for 33 Sessional children (Max 16 Full Day Care)

Date of Inspection: 2 2 0 7 2 0 2 5

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
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care, Part Time and Sessional service for 33 Sessional children (Max 16 Full Day Care)
Date of Registration:	30 th July 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).

Description of Service	It is proposed that Blue Nest will provide a full day care service, that caters for children aged 2 ½ to 6 years. Part time and sessional care are also proposed to be included. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme will be facilitated from 9.00am to 12.00pm, each Monday to Friday, over a 38-week annual period. The service proposes to operate 50 weeks of the year.
Premises	The proposed premises is located in an urban, residential area of Midleton in Co Cork. The ground floor of a two storey building is proposed to accommodate the early years service. There are three care rooms, with either adjoining or adjacent sanitary facilities, along with a sensory room, a kitchen, an office and a staff room. An enclosed outdoor play area is available at the rear of the premises.
Staffing	It is proposed that 8 staff will work at the service, 6 of whom will be involved in the direct care of the early years children. Two of the adults will work solely with school age children. The proposed registered provider will be based at the setting.
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, 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.

(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.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) It is proposed that 6 adults will work with a maximum of 33 children, aged 2 ½ to 6 years, during the sessional service. There will be 11 children based in each of the 3 care rooms at this time. Up to 16 children will remain to attend full day care and there will be 2 adults working directly with these children. Two of the three care rooms will be used for the full day care service, with up to eight children in each room. The third care room will be occupied by school age children in the afternoon. The registered provider has confirmed that there will be a minimum of two adults available on the premises, during the hours of operation.

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.

	<p>(1)</p> <p>(a) The rooms have 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, doctor’s instruments and hand held vehicles, are arranged on low-level, open shelving, or in pull out drawer units.</p> <p>Examples of the accessible outdoor equipment include slides, seesaws, a stationary bus, ride on toys, a mud kitchen and play houses.</p> <p>(b) Cosy spaces, furnished with large floor mats, cushions and soft toys, have been developed as rest areas in each of the care rooms. Two of these areas are also positioned next to bookshelves.</p> <p>Five sleep mats are held in storage, for children who may require sleep while attending the service. Linen is also available.</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>(a) The designated outdoor play environment of the proposed service is available on the premises. It is accessible from the blue and green care rooms and is fully enclosed by high-level fencing and secured gates.</p>
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Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services	
Regulation 22 – Food and Drink	
<i>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.</i>	
Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>A healthy eating policy, suited to the category of service proposed, has been devised. It is proposed that the children’s parents or caregivers will provide the food for their mid-morning snack. Breakfast, a hot lunch meal and an evening snack will be supplied by the service. A staff member will be allocated the role of preparing and cooking the daily hot meal and the snacks. Additional foods, such as fruit and crackers, will also be available, as needed. Potable water will be accessible to children throughout the day. A supply of suitable crockery and cutlery are stored in the kitchen and there is a refrigerator for perishable foods.</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:

The requirement has been met.

General safety:

- The kitchen door is secured from the exterior, which will reduce the risk of a child entering this area unsupervised.
- Firefighting equipment is secured.
- Cleaning agents in the care rooms are stored out of the children’s reach.
- There are no cables or trailing flexes accessible to the children.
- Fire exit signage is illuminated.
- Play materials are maintained in good working order.

Infection control:

- Suitable handwashing and drying facilities are available, including a supply of warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and lidded, pedal-operated bins.
- Disposable aprons and gloves are provided in the nappy changing area.
- Wall hook storage is in place for the children’s coats and bags.

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) Two of the proposed staff members hold in-date First Aid Responder (FAR) certification.

(2)

(a) The first aid box is located in an area that is out of reach of children, while easily accessible to adults.

(b) The first aid supplies will be consistently available, should they be 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 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 and smoke alarms is available. Certified documentation states that the fire detection and alarm system was serviced on 8 July 2025. The maintenance certificate for the firefighting equipment is dated 22 July 2025.

(4) A notice outlining the fire evacuation procedure is displayed beside the main entrance/exit door. 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 proposed full day care service and is valid until 27 March 2026.

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 a premises which appears to be structurally sound.
- (b) The main entrance/exit door is secure from the exterior, with a door bell in place for parents and visitors. In the Blue room, the door that leads to the exit door has been fitted with a sliding bolt, at adult height. These safety precautions will reduce the risk of unauthorised entry and minimise the risk of a child exiting unsupervised.
- (c)
 - A supply of natural light through windows, is available in each of the care rooms. This is supplemented with artificial lighting, encased in protective covers. Adequate lighting has also been ensured in the other areas of the service, including in the sanitary facilities, sensory room, kitchen, staff room and office.
 - The premises has gas heating and the gas boiler was recently serviced. The air temperatures of the care rooms and sanitary facilities all fell within the required range of 18°C to 22°C.
 - Openable windows provide a natural source of ventilation in the care rooms. There is mechanical ventilation in place in the sanitary facilities.
- (d) A cleaning schedule has been developed to record regular cleaning of the rooms and sanitary areas within the service. The care rooms and the adjacent sanitary facilities are maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- (e) There is a total of three children’s toilets and three adjacent wash hand basins available. A separate nappy changing facility, with one changing unit and one wash hand basin is also provided. A staff toilet facility, with one toilet and one wash hand basin is available for use by the adults. The setting is serviced by a public water supply.

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.
- (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.

(1) There is sufficient clear floor space available for the free movement of children within the care rooms, during work and play time.

(2) Based on the proposed age range and number of children, there is adequate space available for 16 children to attend the full day care service:

- The Blue room was measured at 33.83m².
- The Yellow room was measured at 23.36m².
- The Green room was measured at 26.89m².

The Yellow and Green rooms are proposed to accommodate the full day care service, with up to 8 children in each room.

(4)(a) & (b)

The registered provider proposes to contemporaneously cater for children attending the sessional service and the full day care service. Each of the three care rooms allows for the children attending the sessional service, to have a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space during this time.