

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

**Tusla I.D:** TU2025WW001

**Name of Service:** The Nest School Littlebrook

**Address of Service:** Chapel Road, Delgany, Wicklow A63R7F4

**Email Address:** lynda@thenestschool.ie

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Lynda Browne

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

**Proposed service type:** Full Day Care, Part-Time, Sessional

**Proposed Number of Children:** 63

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection**  
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)  
Full Day Care, Part-time and Sessional service for 63 children from 2 to 6 years of age from 08:15 to 15:45 Monday to Friday for 44 weeks.

**Registered service:** Registered Full Day Care/Part-Time/Sessional for 63 Children

**Date of Inspection:** 2 0 0 8 2 0 2 5

**Inspection Undertaken by:** S. Early O'Brien & H. Bourke

**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Tusla Child and Family Agency,  
The Brunel Building,  
Heuston South Quarter,  
St John's Road West,  
Dublin 8

**Rationale for Inspection**

**Proposed New Service**

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care/Part-Time/Sessional for 63 Children
<b>Date of Registration:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2025

<b>Authority to Inspect</b>
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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>The proposed private childcare facility aims to provide full day care, part-time care and sessional care for children aged two to six years of age.</p> <p>The service proposes to accommodate a maximum number of 63 children at full capacity.</p> <p>The service will operate for 44 weeks per year for full day care service.</p> <p>The hours of operation will be 08:15 to 15:45, Monday to Friday.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The proposed service consists of a single storey, purpose-built premises which can accommodate the proposed childcare service. There are four care rooms, Room 1, 2, 3 and 4 available on the ground floor. Sanitary accommodation for both children and staff is available and a staff room, kitchen and office. Each care room has direct access to a large enclosed outdoor play area which is a wraparound play space from the front, via the left hand-side to the rear of the building. Access to the main entrance, Rooms 1 and 2 is at the front of the building with access to Rooms 3 and 4 at the rear of the building.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The registered provider has appointed a manager for the service. There will be six adults working with children and these adults have all attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent. The registered provider will also employ a chef.</p>
<b>Methodology</b>	<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</p>

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	<p>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>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The registered provider has ensured that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.</p>
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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.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The service proposes to accommodate 63 children on a full-day care, part time and sessional basis with an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times. There will be six staff members employed in the service to work directly with the children.

**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:**

(1)(a)

The proposed service consists of four care rooms. The rooms are bright, spacious and well laid out to cater for the age range of children who will be attending the proposed service.

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The rooms contained a variety of toys, mark-making station, arts & craft station, role-play area, puzzles, jigsaws and a construction area. There is an individual cosy area in each of the proposed rooms.

All of the equipment and toys examined were age appropriate and will be available for the children attending the service.

(b)

Stackable beds have been provided for children over two years of age and a suitable rest area has been provided in care Rooms 3 & 4.

(2)(a)

There is a large wraparound enclosed outdoor area provided to the front, left hand-side and rear of the premises; this area can be accessed directly from each of the care rooms. The area is suitable, safe and secure.

### 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 service will provide all snacks and a hot dinner for children attending on a full day care basis. Parents will be requested to provide lunch for their child attending on a part-time basis or sessional basis and will be in line with the Health Eating policy of the service.

Refrigerated storage facilities are available for perishable snacks.

Drinking water will be available for children in each of the care rooms.

If a child requires additional food the onsite kitchen will provide a healthy snack as needed and will cater for the dietary requirements of all children.

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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.

- The registered provider stated that the front door of the proposed service will be locked at all times, ensuring children cannot leave the service unsupervised and unauthorized access to the service cannot occur.
- The emergency exits doors were unobstructed.
- Storage is available for the children’s belongings.
- Cleaning materials and equipment are locked in a cupboard in the service.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to proposed children.
- A fridge is available in the kitchen for the storage of food.
- A cleaning schedule for toys and equipment was available.
- The sanitary accommodations were well stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towels. The water temperatures were recorded at 36°C. Foot pedal bins were available in the sanitary areas and the proposed care rooms for the safe disposal of waste.
- The proposed care rooms and sanitary accommodation were ventilated by mechanical ventilation.
- All internal doors are thumb locked in an accessible location for adults and out of the reach of the proposed children.
- Refuse will be stored where children have no access to it.

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### 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 manager and another staff member have a current certification in FAR (First Aid Response) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was available for the proposed service.

(b)

Individual first aid boxes were clearly identifiable and readily accessible in each of the care rooms, the kitchen and staff room.

### 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The registered provider has indicated that fire drills will be carried out monthly in the care rooms when the service is fully operational.

(b)

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	<p>There was a maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system dated July 2025.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>There was a notice of the procedure to follow in the event of a fire clearly displayed in each of the proposed care room with fire assembly point notices displayed in prominent locations in the outdoor play area.</p>
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### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>There was evidence of an insurance policy for a full-time service for 66 pre-school children in place which expires on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026.</p> <p>This service’s registration is contingent upon the registered provider maintaining up-to-date insurance coverage that accurately reflects the number of children attending the service.</p>
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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*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(a)

The proposed service is located in a purpose-built creche on the grounds of a new housing estate in Wicklow.

(b)

There are two points of entry to the service; one is through the main gate at the front of the building which is monitored by the manager and staff and can be locked from the inside; the second is to the rear right-hand side of the building, monitored by the manager and staff and can be locked from the inside.

The outdoor area is secured with a high wrought iron fence. There is a coded gate at both points of entry to the outdoor area to prevent a child leaving unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.

(c)

The premises benefit from natural light via windows in the proposed care rooms.

There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from covered fluorescent ceiling lights in the rooms.

There is an under-floor heating system in place which can be thermostatically controlled in each of the care rooms by the manager, for the comfort of the children attending the proposed service. There is an air to water heating system also in place in the service.

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	<p>Windows in the proposed pre-school rooms can be opened but have restrictors in place and there is mechanical ventilation in the sanitary areas attached to each of the care rooms.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>A cleaning schedule was in place in all four proposed care rooms. The premises and surrounding environment were clean and well maintained.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>There is sanitary accommodation located within each of the care rooms.</p> <p>Room 1 has one toilet, one hand basin and a nappy changing facility.</p> <p>Room 2 has two toilets, two hand basins and a nappy changing facility.</p> <p>Room 3 has one toilet, one hand basin and a nappy changing facility.</p> <p>Room 4 has two toilets, two hand basins and a nappy changing facility.</p> <p>There is also one toilet with one hand basin with disability access for the staff located in the hallway of the service, adjacent to the care rooms.</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.*
- (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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>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:</p>
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(2)

**Room 1.**

The clear floor space measured 31.50 square meters.

**Room 2.**

The clear floor space measured 55.44 square meters.

**Room 3.**

The clear floor space measured 27.64 square meters.

**Room 4.**

The clear floor space measured 51.15 square meters.

There is sufficient space in the service to cater for the proposed number of Pre-school children attending on a full day or part-time service in the proposed age range.