

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

<b>Tusla I.D.:</b>	TU2026KY001
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Curious Minds Ballincrossig FDC
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ballincrossig National School, Ballincrossig, Ballyduff, Co. Kerry. V92 AP80
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<b>Email Address:</b>	curiousmindsireland@gmail.com
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<b>Name of Proposed Registered Provider:</b>	Marie Sheehy
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<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input checked="" 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"/>

<b>Proposed service type:</b>	Full Day Care, Part-Time, Sessional
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<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	24
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<b>Outcome of the F06 Inspection</b> (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Full Day Care, Part-Time, Sessional service for 24 children, age 2 to 6 years 7.00 am and 6.00 pm Monday to Friday
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<b>Registered service:</b>	Full Day Care, Part-Time, Sessional service for 24 children, aged 2 to 6 years from 7.00am and 6.00pm
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	7	0	1	2	0	2	6
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<b>Inspection Undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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<b>Rationale for Inspection</b>
<b>Proposed New Service</b>

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Full Day Care, Part-Time, Sessional service for 24 children
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<b>Date of Registration:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	This proposed service has applied for registration for an early years service to provide full day care, part-time and sessional care for children from 2 to 6 years. The service is proposing to operate between the hours of 7.00 am and 6 pm Monday to Friday inclusive. The service currently provides school age care in the room proposed for the care of the early years children.
<b>Premises</b>	The service proposes to operate from one spacious room in Ballincrossig National School, located in the rural village of Ballyduff in Co. Kerry. There are two children's sanitary facilities, nappy changing facilities and adult toilets available in the building. The service proposes to have a designated outdoor play area located at the rear of the school building that is proposed to be available and accessible to the children at alternate times to the school aged children.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service proposes to employ four staff members, including the registered provider and the area manager.
<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 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>

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<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and the area manager and proposed designated 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met. (1)(a) The inspector was furnished with the assigned named person in charge and the deputy person in charge.
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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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met. (1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inspector was furnished with the names of two proposed staff members who will work directly with the children each day. The area manager advised the inspector that additional staff to provide relief cover will be available.</li> <li>• There were no children present during the inspection.</li> </ul>
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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.
- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph applies, shall ensure that—
- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been partially met.

(1)  
(a)

- The proposed children will have access to a variety of age-appropriate equipment and play materials that are available and accessible to them on the floor and on open low level shelving units in the care room.
- The care room was furnished with a sufficient quantity of child sized tables and chairs.
- The care room was laid out with a variety of interest areas. There was a range of play materials and equipment that included for example books, home area with associated utensils and food items, small animals, small vehicles, train and Doctor's sets and dress-up costumes for the proposed age range of the children.
- Adult seating is provided in the proposed care room.
- The proposed children will have access to a designated outdoor play area at alternate times to the school aged children attending the national school. The play

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	<p>materials available for use in the outdoor area included for example an outdoor kitchen, a sand table, a selection of ride on toys, a low-level play unit and balls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The inspector was informed that a storage unit for some of these items is planned for.</li> </ul> <p>(b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed care room has a designated rest area with cushions, a floor mat, and extendable soft matting. The service provided evidence in respect of the proof of purchase for 2 stackable beds.</li> <li>Appropriate linen will be provided for the stackable beds it will be individual to each child.</li> <li>The inspector was informed that the storage area for the stackable beds is currently under review</li> </ul> <p>(2)(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed care room has direct access to a designated outdoor play with a partial concrete and a partial grass surface located to the rear of the building.</li> </ul>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p>(3)(a) The requirement has not been met.</p> <p>1. The proposed outdoor play area is not secured to prevent children gaining access to the roadway.</p>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<p>New fencing has been fully installed in the outdoor area. The fencing ensures that the space is secure and provides a safe environment for the children.</p>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	<p>The photographs of the outdoor fencing and gates were examined. Their requirement for the regulation has been met.</p>

### 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 and guardians of the proposed children attending will provide all the food for the snacks and for the main hot meal.
- As advised on inspection the service will provide additional food for the children as required.
- Potable drinking water is available at the sink in the care room.
- The children will have access to drinking water in their individual drink's bottles throughout the day, proposed to be stored on a low-level shelving unit.
- There was 1 microwave for heating food and 1 fridge freezer provided in the care room.
- There were adequate cutlery and crockery in place for the proposed number of children attending.

### 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.

- There was an entry/exit main door to the premise serving the proposed care room. The door was secured with a low-level internal turn lock to prevent authorised entry.
- The inspector was informed that a doorbell will be installed on the main entrance door to the proposed service.
- The emergency exits located in the service, that is the care room entrance door and the door leading to the sanitary accommodation area were observed to be unobstructed and clearly signed.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed designated person in charge demonstrated the fire exit route proposed for use in the event of a fire using the exit via the sanitary accommodation to the fire assembly point located at the front of the national school.</li> <li>• The area manager is to seek advice from the Fire Officer in relation to the fire safety in the premise.</li> <li>• The cleaning agents observed on inspection were stored in a secured cupboard in the care room.</li> <li>• The first aid box was stored within the care room, out of the reach of the children at adult height.</li> <li>• There was one of the two fire extinguishers wall mounted in the care room</li> <li>• The inspector was informed that all medicines will be stored in a secured allocated cupboard in the care room as observed on inspection.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p>The requirement has not been met in relation to the following: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The main door to the building and the two doors to the outdoor play areas each had low-level turn locks. The proposed care room door had a low-level door handle. These doors were not secured to prevent children from exiting out of the premises unsupervised onto the roadway and to the proposed outdoor play area.</li> <li>2. There were 12 openable windows in the care with low-level window ledges beneath them. The windows could be opened out fully to the proposed unsecured outdoor play area and onto the roadway.</li> <li>3. There was a large stage accessible to the proposed children at one end of the care room posing an injury risk to children. It was acknowledged the inspector was informed that the proposed registered provider was in consultation with the national school with a view to removing the stage.</li> <li>4. There with items such as ropes, electrical wire on a roll, a photocopier stored beneath the stage accessible behind an openable curtain screen in place posing a risk of injury to children.</li> </ol>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. The cutlery drawer located under the sink in the care room that stored some stainless-steel knives was not secured posing a risk of injury to children.</li> <li>6. There was a photocopier and unsecured cable attached positioned on a low-level table in the care room posing a risk of injury to children.</li> <li>7. There was a low-level plastic shelving unit with openable drawers that stored rolls of plastic aprons, boxes of vinyl gloves, packets of baby wipes accessible in the unsecured adult sanitary/nappy changing area located next door to the children’s toilets posing a risk of injury to children.</li> <li>8. Within the proposed outdoor area there was timber planters that had broken slats with loose splinters and a plastic plant pot that had cracked sharp edging posing a risk of injury to children.</li> <li>9. Within the proposed outdoor play area there were areas of the concrete surface that had some holes and some cracked uneven areas posing a risk of injury to children.</li> <li>10. There was one unsecured fire extinguisher stored on the floor in the care room posing a risk of injury to children.</li> <li>11. There was no food preparation area allocated at a height inaccessible to children posing a risk of injury to children.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All the door handles are now at a higher level out of the reach of the children.</li> <li>2. All 12 windows have safety locks in place.</li> <li>3. &amp; 4. A safety gate has been put in place to prevent the children from having access to the stage. A risk assessment has been completed.</li> <li>5. Child safety locks have been put in place.</li> <li>6. The photocopier has been put in a place out of the reach of the children.</li> <li>7. The shelving unit has been removed.</li> <li>8. These items have been removed.</li> <li>9. The concrete work was completed in the area.</li> <li>10. This was removed; it was the property of the school.</li> <li>11. Food preparation area is now in place.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Summary Comment:</b></p>	<p>All documentation received was examined. The requirement has been met.</p>

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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 relevant certification was available to the inspector to demonstrate that the adults proposed to work with the children have a completed and in date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.
- (2)
  - (a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box in the proposed care room.
  - (b) The first aid box will be readily available to the proposed children attending the service.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service has a template available to document the monthly fire drills.

(b) There was a record on file for the servicing of the firefighting equipment dated 3.4.'25 and for the fire detection system was 22.8.'25.

(4) A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is clearly displayed in the service.

### 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.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to the inspection. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers 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:

The requirement has been partially met.

(a)

- From a visual assessment, the premises appeared to be sound and stable.

(b)

- The entrance door to the building was secured to prevent unauthorized visitors from entering.

(c)

- The lighting in the proposed care room, sanitary facilities and entrance areas is supplied by a combination of natural lighting through the windows and doors supplemented by artificial lights fitted with protective covers.
- The heating system is an oil boiler system. The inspector was furnished with an invoice dated 19.12.'25 for the heating boiler system upgrade.
- The air temperature of the care room was recorded at 18 degrees Celsius.
- Natural ventilation was provided in the premise by means of a number of openable windows.

(d)

- From observation on the day of the inspection the play equipment and furniture appeared to be clean and in a good condition.
- Digital templates for cleaning of the premise, it's fixtures and fittings are in place.

(e)

- The sanitary facilities consisted of 2 children's toilets and 2 wash hand basins located outside the care room. There was adult sanitary accommodation/ a wall mounted nappy changing unit and wash hand basin located outside the care room.
- There was a second adult sanitary accommodation facility available in the building.
- There was thermostatically controlled warm water at all the wash hand basins observed with a supply of liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were provided.

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<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p>The requirement has not been met in relation to the following: -</p> <p>(c)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The air temperature in the children’s sanitary accommodation and in the adult sanitary accommodation/nappy changing room was recorded below the required 18 - 22 degrees Celsius. The temperature was recorded between the range of 12.8 and 14.2 degrees Celsius.</li> </ol> <p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. There was an exposed timber slat on the ceiling that was not plastered/painted over.</li> <li>3. There was no floor covering on the concrete floor outside the sanitary accommodation. The inspector was informed that tiles will be fitted on the floor and plan to re-tile the tiled flooring in the sanitary accommodation.</li> <li>4. The water tap at the sink in the care room was loose and the turn handle was stiff to operate it adequately.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>(c)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two heaters have now been installed by a qualified electrician in both bathrooms.</li> </ol> <p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The primary school has fixed this.</li> <li>3. Lino has been put down.</li> <li>4. The water tap handle has been fixed.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Summary Comment:</b></p>	<p>All documentation has been examined. The requirement has been met.</p>

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.*
- (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.*
- (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:**

- (1) Adequate floor space is available in the proposed care rooms for the work, play and movement of the children in the service.
- (2) The minimum clear floor space (not including the stage area) measured 87.51 square metres for the proposed number of 24 pre-school children in the proposed room. The area manager advised that the requirement for the minimum clear floor space for the mixed age range of the proposed children in the room will be adhered to.
- (3) & (4) The registered provider proposes to contemporaneously cater for children attending the sessional service and the part-time/full day care service. The proposed room allows for the children attending the sessional service, to have a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space during this time.