

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015DY034

Name of Service Bumblebee Montessori and Childcare

Address of Service: 16-17 Churchwell Mews, Belmayne, Dublin 13. D13 A060

Email Address: belmayne@bumbleschool.com

Name of Registered Provider: Nichola Higgins and Emma Crowe

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

Proposed change:	The service proposes to Increase the number of children cared for by 5 children from 52 children to 57 children.
Proposed Number of Children:	57 Children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Change not accepted due to requirements not met under Regulation 29.
Registered change:	Change not approved – service to remain registered as full day, part-time & sessional service for 52 children

Date of Inspection:	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: E. Griffin and F. Carty

Title: Early years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. D08 X01F

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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

Registration Status:	Service Remains Registered as Full Day Service for 52 Children
Date of Registration	12 June 2026

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	Bumblebee Montessori and Childcare is one of two services operated by the two registered providers. This service is registered to operate from 8am to 6pm and is currently operating from 8am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme Monday to Friday.
Premises	The premises consists of four care rooms. The proposed breakdown of the rooms is as follows. On the ground floor is the Wobbler Room (Blue Room) for children aged one to two years, the Toddler Room (Purple Room) for children aged 2 to 3 years. There is also a kitchen, an office, a cot room and sanitary accommodation for children and staff. On the first floor is the Junior Montessori (Yellow Room) which will cater for children aged two years and eight months to 4 years and the Senior Montessori (Green Room) which will cater for children aged 3 to 6 years and there is also sanitary accommodation for children on this floor. The service has use of a secure outdoor play area located to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	The registered providers employ fifteen staff. One of the two registered providers works in the service in a management capacity as the person in charge. The registered provider and the deputy person in charge facilitated the inspection.
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 the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	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 registering the change in circumstance. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, deputy person in charge, staff and children 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge, and a named staff member was available to deputise as required.

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 persons in charge stated that they would ensure that an adequate number of adults will be working directly with the children attending the service. It is proposed there will be up to 15 adults caring for up to 57 children aged between one to six years of age on a full-time, part-time and sessional basis.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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—*
- (b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises 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 is met.

(1) (a) The proposed care rooms will provide adequate and suitable facilities for the children to play indoors.

- There are defined areas of interest in the proposed care rooms.
- There is an adequate supply of toys and resources available to support a range of play experiences for the proposed age profile and number of children.
- Furniture in the rooms is suitable for the age and stage of development of the proposed age range of the children.
- Toys and equipment are stored on low shelving, visible and accessible to the children.

(1) (b) The requirement is met. There are adequate facilities for a child to rest.

- There is a cosy area available in the care rooms suitable for the proposed age range of children, where they can take a break from activities and rest.
- There is a sufficient number of cots and floor beds available for children aged one to two years old who may wish to sleep.
- There is a sufficient number of low stackable beds available for children over two years old who may wish to sleep.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

- There is sufficient space for these beds to be laid out in the care room for children to sleep.
- There is an adequate supply of bed linen and suitable blankets available.

(2) (b) The requirement is met.

There is an outdoor play area available on the premises, which is fully enclosed, the surface of which is covered in soft artificial grass. There is a range of outdoor toys and equipment to facilitate physical play experiences for the age and stage of development of the proposed age range of the children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

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 is met.

- All meals are provided by the service and prepared in the onsite kitchen.
- A four-week menu plan is available.
- There are appropriate facilities available for the storage of perishable food.
- There is a healthy eating policy in place.
- Drink and fruit stations are available in the care rooms.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 is met.

- The emergency exits are unobstructed.
- A low-level handrail and anti-slip flooring are present on the staircase leading to the two upstairs care rooms.
- Windows on the ground floor and first-floor care rooms have been fitted with restrictors.
- The blind cords are secured.
- Play materials are safe and suitable for use.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, paper towels and closed lid pedal bins were available in the sanitary accommodation.
- Cleaning schedules are in place, and the premises was visually clean on the day of the inspection.
- Safe sleep procedures are in place such as a method for recording checks for sleeping children every ten minutes.
- All storage of waste both indoors and outdoors, and cleaning materials, are inaccessible to the children.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 is met.

- (1) Evidence is available to show that three adults hold up to date certification in First Aid Response (FAR) training.
- (2) (a) A suitably equipped first aid box is stored in the care rooms.
- (b) The first aid box was easily accessible and available.

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:

- (1) The requirement has been met. The following records are available:
 - (a) There is a template available to record fire drills that take place in the service.
 - (b) A written record is available to demonstrate the firefighting equipment in the premises was last maintained on 17 July 2025 and the smoke alarms were last maintained on 15 September 2025.
- (4) There are notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed on the wall of the care rooms and throughout the service. The fire assembly sign is displayed clearly in the outdoor play area to the rear of the service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.

The service has insurance to cover a maximum of sixty children on a full-time basis. The expiry date on the insurance certificate is the 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:

- (a) There was no evidence of dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings. Windows in the care rooms appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and were both positioned and opened above child height. The registered provider confirmed that there are no structural defects with the premises.
- (b) The entrance door to the service was secured with a lock to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to avoid unauthorised access to the service. The outdoor play area was securely fenced and gated reducing the risk of children from exiting unsupervised.
- (c)
 - The windows in the care room provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required.
 - Heating is provided through a gas heating system. The temperature of the care rooms on the day of inspection was maintained between the required 18-22°C.
 - The care rooms are equipped with openable windows to allow for ventilation
 - The sanitary facilities are adequately ventilated.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

- (d) The care rooms are clean, maintained and in good repair. There is a cleaning schedule available to ensure regular cleaning of the premises.
- (e) There is an adequate number of toilets for the proposed 57 children. One toilet and one sink are required in sanitary accommodation for every 11 toilet trained children.

Children's Sanitary Accommodation			
Sanitary Areas	Children's Toilets	Nappy Changing Units	Hand Wash Basins
Ground Floor	2	2	4
First Floor	3	1	4
Total	5	3	8

- Thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided in all sanitary facilities. Lidded pedal bins were provided for the disposal of paper hand towels.

Requirement not met:

- (e) There is not an adequate number of toilets for the proposed 15 adults who will work in the service. One toilet and one sink is currently available. A minimum of one toilet and one sink are required for every eight staff working in the service.

Response from Provider:

The service is in the process of installing an extra toilet and sink to meet the requirement.

Summary Comment:

The requirement is not met.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.

Requirement met:

- (1) The amount of clear floor space is demonstrated below.

Room Name	Clear floor space measured by EYI	Space required
Wobbler Room (Blue Room)	26.8 m ²	1-2 years; 2.8m ²
Toddler Room (Purple Room)	30.8 m ²	2-3 years: 2.35 m ²
Junior Montessori (Yellow Room)	31 m ²	2-3 years: 2.35 m ² 3-6 years: 2.3 m ² sessional care 1.181m ²
Senior Montessori (Green Room)	44.1 m ²	2-3 years: 2.35 m ² 3-6 years: 2.3 m ² sessional care 1.181m ²

- (2) The measurements recorded under (1) are sufficient for a proposed 57 children attending the service. The registered providers must ensure adequate space in the four care rooms based on the age of the children attending at any given time.