

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D:	TU2015FL187							
Name of Service	Little Scholars							
Address of Service:	Stapolin ETNS, Myrtle Road, The Coast, Dublin 13, D13 PP2W							
Email Address:	littlescholars.baldoyle@mail.com							
Name of Registered Provider:	Fiona Simpson							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time		Sessional	☒		
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	Change of address to Stapolin ETNS, Myrtle Road, The Coast, Dublin 13, D13 PP2W							
Proposed Number of Children:	22 (no change)							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Approve change in service address							
Registered change:	Change of Service Address from Bracken Educate Together N.S., Castlelands, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, K32 YE94 to Stapolin ETNS, Myrtle Road, The Coast, Dublin 13, D13 PP2W							
Date of Inspection:	2	0	0	9	2	0	2	3
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Cully							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	181 - 189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords. Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6							

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	25 th September 2023



Child and Family Agency Act 2013
Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

Version 05
Implemented- Aug 2022
EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)

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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).

Description of Service	Little Scholars is a sessional preschool service and is currently operating from a room within a newly built local National School. The service proposes to provide a play-based and Montessori curriculum for up to 22 children at any one time from 8.30am – 12. 00pm. The service participates in the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECCE) scheme and will provide a preschool service to eligible children for 38 weeks of the year.
Premises	The service is being conducted from a room within the national school and is located on the ground floor. The national school is purpose-built and has been open since 1st September 2023. The service has a designated door for drop-off and collection. Children's sanitary facilities are located within the care room and adult sanitary facilities are located in the adjacent corridor. The service has access to 2 outdoor spaces on the premises of the school. There is a parking bay for drop off and collection at the front of the premises.
Staffing	The registered provider has recruited a service manager who is acting as the designated person in charge of this service. It is proposed that a 2 nd member of staff will be employed pending approval of funding through the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). Until then, the registered provider is present in the service alongside the designated person in charge.
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. 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.
Additional Information	This service moved premises prior to the approval from the Registration Office.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector(s) wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children 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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

It is proposed that the service manager would be the designated person in charge on a daily basis and there would be a named person appointed 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 and would ensure that an adequate number of adults would at all times work directly with the children in the service.

(8)(b) The registered provider plans to employ a 2nd staff member, but if the person in charge will be required to operate single-handedly the registered provider would ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service within close distance of the service will be available to assist in the event of an emergency.

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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—*
- (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.*
- (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 (2) 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 or*
 - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The care room is resourced with a broad range of play materials and equipment to facilitate meaningful play experiences for the children attending. Interest areas are defined and include organised Montessori resources, a library, a home corner, an art area, a sensory tray, a nature table, a construction area and tabletop activities. The materials and resources are stored at an accessible level to the children. There are age-appropriate tables and chairs for use during activities and meal times. Children have access to outdoor play on a daily basis, and a bag of suitable equipment is brought to the outdoor area when in use.

(b) There is an area of the room consisting of a child-sized sofa, rug and fold-out mat where children can rest during the session if needed.

(2)(a) The service has access to 2 enclosed outdoor spaces on the school grounds. The children walk a short distance from the school door to the gate where both outdoor spaces are located. One outdoor space is an enclosed courtyard with walkways and small areas of planting/greenery. The second available outdoor space is an enclosed spacious basketball court with impact-absorbing surfacing. Children were present during the inspection and using this outdoor space. The staff had a bag of outdoor equipment and toys that children were using in this space. Both outdoor areas were well maintained and appeared safe from hazards.

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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 requirements have been met.
Snacks are provided by parents daily and stored in a fridge located in the care room. Children were observed on the day with food in line with the services healthy eating policy. There was a drinking water tap available to provide potable drinking water to the children.

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.
During the fit-for-purpose inspection the inspector did not identify any hazards that would impact the health, safety or welfare of children attending the service.

- The external doors, windows and garden gates were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years' service.
- The play materials were appropriate for the age range of children attending.
- The furniture and equipment were clean, in good working order and well-maintained.
- Thermostatically controlled running water was available at the wash hand basins in the service. The warm water temperature was 37.5 – 42.8°C on the day of the fit for purpose inspection. Liquid soap and paper towels were available for the children's and staff members' use.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- Emergency exit doors were unobstructed.

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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 registered provider is aware of the requirement to ensure that a person trained in first aid for children would be at all times immediately available to the children attending the early years service. There was evidence available in the service to show that the registered provider holds in-date first aid response (FAR) training.

(2)(a)&(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is available and stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the care room, available at all times for the children if necessary.

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 a template which will be used to record fire drills that will take place monthly at the service.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The fire fighting equipment was certified as having been serviced on 24/07/2023 and the fire detection and alarm system on 07/08/2023.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire and evacuation maps are displayed in the care rooms and in the ancillary accommodation.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

A copy of the insurance policy was submitted to the registrations office to document that the provision of insurance for a maximum of 11 children is currently in place from 05/09/23 – 27/03/23. There are currently 8 children attending. 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 met.

(a) The service is located within a premises that has been recently constructed as a purpose-built national school and which appears to be in good condition throughout.

(b) The premises appears safe and appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years service.

(c)

Lighting:

The premises is adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating:

The premises is heated by underfloor heating by means of a gas heating system. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection. A digital thermometer was provided in the care room to accurately monitor the temperature.

Ventilation:

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	Ventilation in the care rooms is provided by means of openable windows. The sanitary accommodation for children is ventilated by means of openable windows and the internal sanitary accommodation for staff is ventilated by means of mechanical ventilation. (d) The premises is in a clean condition and in a good state of repair. (e) Adequate sanitary accommodation is provided for 11 preschool children proposed to attend. There are 2 sanitary facilities for children within the care room. Each has a toilet, wash basin and step-up. There is a 3rd hand-wash basin located in the care room for handwashing. The staff have access to a wheelchair-accessible sanitary facility across the corridor from the care room consisting of an adult toilet and hand-wash basin. There is also access to an additional 2 sanitary facilities for staff via the corridor.
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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.*

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement of 22 children proposed to attend the service. (2) The registered provider is aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7. The minimum space regulatory requirement can be met for the 22 preschool children proposed to be accommodated in the service. The clear floor space of the care room was 72 square-metres which meets the space requirements for the proposed maximum number of 22 preschool children aged 2 years 6 months – 6 years attending on a sessional basis.
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