

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



Tusla I.D:	TU2023LS002
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Name of Service:	Little Learners Pre School Arles
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Address of Service:	Arles National School, Ballickmoyler, Co. Laois, R93HY62
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Email Address:	enrightmargaret18@gmail.com
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Mags Enright
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	☐	Part-Time	☐	Drop-In	☐
	Sessional	☒	Childminding	☐	Temporary	☐

Proposed service type:	Sessional Service
Proposed Number of Children:	22
Outcome of the F06 Inspection:	To register as a sessional service for 22 preschool children aged 2-6 years operating from 9.30 to 12.30 Monday to Friday.
Registered service:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children

Date of Inspection:	0	9	0	6	2	0	2	3
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Inspection Undertaken by:	D. Molloy
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration:	11 th August 2023

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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	It is proposed that this new service will operate as a sessional service in Arles in rural Co. Laois and will be privately operated by the proposed registered provider. It is proposed to cater for up to 22 preschool children aged from 2 years 8 months -6 years. The proposed hours of operation are from 09.30-12.30 daily. The service proposes to offer early childhood care and education to the children and to operate the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE).
Premises	It is proposed to operate this service from a room within Arles National School, and will comprise of an entrance hall/lobby, one playroom, two toilets and wash hand basins, for children's use and an additional toilet is available for staff and a kitchenette for sole use of the early years' service.
Staffing	It is proposed that the registered provider and one other staff member will work directly with the preschool children. The qualifications of the proposed staff members in Early Childhood Care and Education are from Level 5 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
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 two 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 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.
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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The service had a designated person in charge and a named person 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)—

(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:

(1)

This requirement has been met.

An adequate number of adults were proposed to work directly with the children in the service. The required adult child ratio of 2 adult to 22 children attending on a sessional basis was proposed. Two adults will be working in the service through out the opening hours of the service.

(8)

(c) It is proposed that the registered provider and a second staff member will operate the service.

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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.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) The service was equipped with adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and outdoors while in the service.

A wide range of new, good quality toys and equipment was provided both indoors and outdoors. The playroom was set out in a child centred manner including particular areas of interest and rest area. A wide range of developmentally and age-appropriate toys and equipment is freely accessible to the children from low level shelving. A choice of different toys and equipment including arts and crafts materials, table top equipment, dolls, and buggies, dressing up clothes, books in a library area, farm toys and play equipment is available and laid out in a child friendly manner in special interest areas around the playroom.

The playroom provides a construction corner, home corner, messy play area, dress up areas, small world and toy trains, arts and crafts area and a wooden climbing. The

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children's link to home will be reflected in a family tree which will be populated with photographs of children's family and events of special significance such as birthdays will be celebrated on the wall .

Child sized furniture including low level tables and chairs, low-level shelving is available .

(b) There are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day. A cosy rest area is available including soft seating and a soft floor mat.

(2)

(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 to the side of the premises. Access could be gained to the play area from hallway outside the playroom. This area will be shared on a rotational basis with the junior primary school pupils. In addition, it is proposed that the children have access to a grassed area which would also be shared with the primary school pupils on a rotational basis. A fence and a wall secure the boundaries of the areas.

Access to the setting is gained through shared school entrance, access to the school premises is controlled by the staff from within the playroom. Access to the service is controlled from within the playroom by the person in charge.

Storage for cleaning products and supplies is provided out of reach of children.

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:

This requirement has been met.

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It is proposed that children bring in their own lunches from home in line with healthy eating policy of the proposed service. An upstanding fridge is available in which to store lunches prior to consumption.

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:

This requirement has been met.

The following measures were in place to safeguard the children's health, safety, and welfare and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.

A site-specific infection control policy has been devised.

A site-specific risk management policy has been devised which will review indoor and outdoor areas of the service. Storage will be provided in the playroom and in a locked cupboard in the hallway. Cleaning chemicals and sprays will be stored out of reach of children.

Cleaning schedules and a cleaning rota will be maintained and will be open for inspection.

Environment

The bins in the playroom and sanitary accommodation are foot operated and it is proposed that any waste from the preschool will be recycled by the registered provider.

A pest control system will be in place in the service.

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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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

The registered provider holds an up to date qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) and will be available on the premises throughout the proposed opening hours.

(2)

(a) A fully equipped first aid box is available in an accessible and conspicuous location in the playroom.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) A recording system will be in place to maintain records of any fire drills as conducted and it was proposed that a monthly fire drill be carried out.

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Requirement not met:	(b) The maintenance record for firefighting equipment in the service was not available for inspection which should indicated the date of annual service. A maintenance record for the smoke alarm system to showed that the system had been checked annually was not available . (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was wall not mounted in the playroom.
Response from Provider:	A copy of maintenance record was submitted on 08.08.23 which shows up to date maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the school dated 29 March 2023. A copy of procedures to be followed in event of a fire was submitted to the inspector on 03.08.23, which the proposed registered provider has wall mounted in the playroom.
Summary Comment:	Following the submissions of the registered provider the requirements of this regulation have now been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:	Full insurance was provided to the Registration Office, valid from 10 th August to 27 th March for 22 Children on a Sessional basis.
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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*

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(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities

Requirement met:	(a) In the proposed playroom the internal walls and ceilings were painted with no evidence of dampness or mould growth visible. All internal windows were water tight and weather tight when closed. (b) All site boundaries were secure. (c) The setting was well lit with a combination of natural and artificial light. The light fittings throughout the premises were covered with shatterproof diffusers. The service was heated by oil radiators that are be thermostatically controlled. High openable windows were provided in the playroom, sanitary accommodation, and kitchenette. (d) The playroom was painted and decorated, and surfaces were clean. A proposed cleaning schedule and a cleaning roster is available in the playroom room which would document the proposed cleaning. The floor covering throughout sanitary accommodation and hallway was in good condition and was clean. (e) There were two toilets and two wash hand basins in the section of the premises reserved for the use of the preschool children and an additional toilet was available for staff members. A supply of liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bin was available in the sanitary accommodation. The toilets were ventilated by openable windows.
Requirement not met:	(d)The floor covering in centre of the proposed playroom is stained and is not maintained in a hygienic condition. (e) The wash hand basins are not provided with thermostatically controlled hot water, heated to a maximum of 43°C.
Response from Provider:	On 02.08.23 the proposed registered provider submitted by email a photograph showing new floor covering in the playroom. (e) In email correspondence on 02.08.23 the proposed registered provider stated that a new hot water system had been now installed and a copy of professional plumbers

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	statement that the new system will provide thermostatically controlled hot water as is required .
Summary Comment:	Further to the remedial actions by the registered provider the requirements of this regulation have now been met.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

The room in which it is proposed to operate the sessional preschool has enough free floor space to accommodate this proposal. Sufficient floor space is available in this playroom.

Room name	Number of children.	Age range	Type of service	Space available	Space required
Playroom	22	2 years 8 months to 6 years.	Sessional	The amount of total free space available 55 m ²	To accommodate 22 preschool children in sessional care the space requirement is 39.96m ²

(3) Adequate floor space was available for children cared for on a sessional basis.