

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2026KY002											
Name of Service:	Little Leaders											
Address of Service:	Dromclough National School, Lixnaw, Listowel, Co. Kerry, V31W640											
Email Address:	christinalovett@hotmail.com											
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Christina Lovett											
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Drop-In		Sessional	✓	Childminding		Temporary	
Proposed service type:	Part-Time day Care Service											
Proposed Number of Children:	40											
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	• Part time service • 40 children • Age 2-6 • Monday to Friday 9.00 – 12.00											
Registered service:	Service Registered Part Time Day Care Service											
Date of Inspection:	1	1	0	5	2	0	2	6				
Inspection Undertaken by:	N. Reidy											
Title:	Early Years Inspector											
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.											
Rationale for Inspection												
Proposed New Service												
Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office												
Registration Status:	Service Registered											
Date of Registration:	02.07.2026											

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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).

Description of Service	This proposed service has applied for registration for an early years service to provide a Part-time Day Care service for children from 2 to 6 years. The service is proposing to operate between the hours of 9.00 am and 2.00 pm Monday to Friday inclusive. Currently the proposed registered provider provides school age care in one of the two rooms proposed for the care of the early years children.
Premises	The service proposes to operate form two rooms in Dromclough National School, located in the rural area of Listowel in Co. Kerry. There are children's sanitary facilities located outside the proposed playrooms and adult toilets are located in the National school building. The service proposes to use the spacious basketball court located to the side of the building that is proposed to be available and accessible to the children at alternate times to the school aged children.
Staffing	The service proposes to employ three staff members, including the registered provider.
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 four 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 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The inspector was furnished with the assigned named person in charge, that is the registered provider and with the named deputy person in charge.

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 inspector was furnished with the names of the three proposed staff members who will work in the service.
- There were no children present during the inspection.

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) 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 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.

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Requirement met:	The requirement has been partially met. (1)(a) • The children will have access to toys and play materials that are available and accessible to them on the open low level shelving units in both playrooms. • The two playrooms were furnished with a sufficient quantity of child sized tables and chairs. • The playrooms had a selection of toys that included for example a kitchen area with some associated utensils and food items, blocks, pegs and pegging boards, small animals, small vehicles, books, board games, some puzzles, some clothes for dress-up, and playdough. • In discussion with the proposed registered provider, she stated that sand and water play will be provided for the tuff trays in place on inspection. • Adult seating is provided in the rooms. (b) • The proposed playrooms have designated rest areas with furnishings consisting of a rug on the floor and some scattered cushions. The proposed registered provider furnished evidence in respect of the proof of purchase for 2 stackable beds and linen. • The linen provided will be individual to each child. • The inspector was informed that the storage area for the stackable beds is currently under review (2)(a) The proposed service will have access to a designated outdoor play on site for the proposed children. The area that was shown to the inspector was the basketball court. The proposed registered provider stated it will be used at alternate times to the children attending the national school. (3)(a) The proposed service will have an outdoor area to which the proposed pre-school children attending the service will have access to on a daily basis, at alternate times to the children attending he National school.
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Requirement not met:	The requirement has not been met in relation to the following: - (1)(a) 1. There was an insufficient amount of play materials and resources for the proposed 40 children, to support a variety of play activities. There were 11 puzzles, 8 dress-up costumes and 1 cookware play set in for of the Kitchen areas. 2. There were no toys and play equipment provided for the outdoor play area. In discussion with the proposed registered provider, she stated the proposed toys and play equipment were in storage in her registered early years service. (b) 3. The rest areas in both proposed playrooms were not adequately resourced for the proposed number of children to be catered for. The areas were each furnished with a rug on the floor and some cushions.
Response from Provider:	(1)(a) 1. Puzzles, cookware and dress up clothing were purchased. 2. Outdoor toys secured and storage for the outdoor toys is taking place with the Board of Management of the school with a view to use of a vacant prefab. If the prefab does not become available, an outdoor storage unit will be purchased. (b) 3. The low-level beds have been delivered and there is an extra-large rug with cushions provided for the rest areas.
Summary Comment:	Photographs of the additional indoor toys, the outdoor play materials and toys, the low-level beds and of the proposed outdoor storage were received. All documentation received was examined. The requirement for the regulation has been met.

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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.
- As advised on inspection the proposed registered provider will have additional food for the children if required. There will have a stock of dried goods, including crackers and cereals for example.
- There were large bottles of drinking water provided in the proposed service. The proposed registered provider informed that 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 in the playrooms.
- There was 1 microwave for heating food, a toaster and 1 undercounter fridge provided in the proposed playroom 2.
- There was a sink with warm and cold running water and countertop provided in both of the proposed playrooms.

Requirement not met:

1. The capacity of the one fridge in place in playroom 1 was not adequate for storage of perishable foods for the proposed number of 40 children. On discussion with the proposed registered provider, she stated that a second fridge will be provided in playroom 2.
2. There was an inadequate supply of age-appropriate cutlery and crockery for the proposed number of children attending the service.

Response from Provider:

1. There is a second fridge now provided in the second playroom.
2. Age-appropriate cutlery, and 40 each of cups and plates were purchased and they are in place.

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Summary Comment:	All documentation and associated photographs were examined. The requirement for the regulation has been met.
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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 partially met. • The identified entry/exit door to the premise was secured to prevent unauthorized entry. • The emergency exits located in the service were observed to be unobstructed and clearly signed. • The cleaning agents observed on inspection were stored in a secure locker and on high level shelving. • The staff belongings will be stored in secured lockers. • The first aid boxes were stored within the playrooms, out of the reach of the children at adult height. • The two fire extinguishers observed on site were securely wall mounted. • The inspector was informed that all medicines will be stored in a secured allocated cupboard in one playroom. • The surface temperatures on all the wall mounted low level radiators on the premise, some of which had thermostatic gauges, were recorded below 50 degrees Celsius. In conversation with the proposed registered provider, she is aware that fixed guards are required on the radiators should the surface temperature read higher than 50 degrees Celsius.
Requirement not met:	The requirement has not been met in relation to the following: - 1. There was a water heating unit, associated pipe work, an electrical cable and the switcher user button accessible to the proposed children in playroom 1 posing a risk of injury to children.

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2. There was a kettle and a toaster that were not securely stored on top of the wall mounted microwave in playroom 1 posing a risk of injury to children.
3. The openable windows in both proposed playrooms could be opened out fully, out to the unsecured gate out to the roadway, to the outdoor play areas and to the second National school building posing a risk of injury to children.
4. The fire door in the proposed playroom 2 had a low-level push bar handle for opening. It opened out to the side of the building, to the second National school building, to the outdoor play areas and to the unsecured gate out to the roadway, posing a risk of injury to children.
5. There were a number of high- level tables and chairs stored under the windows in playroom 1 that were not age appropriate for the proposed early years children posing a risk of injury to children.
6. There were sharp hooks accessible on the low-level wall mounted book storage in both proposed playrooms posing a risk of injury to children.
7. There was one single and one double gate in the proposed outdoor play area that were not secured to prevent children gaining unsupervised access out and to prevent unauthorised access in.
8. There was a gap at the bottom of one section of the mesh fencing in the proposed outdoor area posing a risk of injury to children.
9. One of the two fire extinguishers did not have the last service information attached to it. The said fire extinguisher may not be suitable and appropriate for use posing a risk of injury to children in the event of a fire. On speaking with the proposed registered provider, she stated she was unsure if the said extinguisher had been relocated from another room in the building.
10. The service for the fire detection and alarm system was 18.4.2025. The service was not carried out on an annual basis posing a risk of injury to children in the event of a fire.
11. The designated entry/exit door to the premise was not secured to prevent children opening the door via the thumb lock and exiting onto the roadway via

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	the unsecured gate, to the second National school building and to the outdoor play areas. 12. One of the two doors in the proposed playroom 1 was not secured to prevent children leaving the room unsupervised, to the entry/exit door with the low-level thumb lock, that opened out to the unsecured gate and to the roadway, to the second National school building and to the outdoor play areas.
Response from Provider:	1. The water heating unit has been secured in. 2. The kettle and toaster have been placed on a new high-level shelf. 3. The windows have been fitted with restrictive openers. 4. An alarm has been fitted to the door. 5. Age-appropriate tables and chairs are in the room and the other tables and chairs have been removed. 6. Soft material was fitted to the sharp edges. 7. Combination locks have been obtained for the gates. 8. The mesh fence was fixed. 9. The fire extinguisher was serviced in September 2025, the date of service is now attached to the extinguisher. 10. The service for the fire detection and alarm system has been organized for 8.6.'26. The certificate will be forwarded to the early years inspectorate when provided. 11. An alarm has been fitted to the door. 12. There is a lock fitted to the door.
Summary Comment:	All documentation and photographs received were examined. The requirement for the regulation has been met.

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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 current certifications were furnished to the inspector to evidence that 3 proposed staff members had completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training that was in date.
- (2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box provided for each of the 2 proposed playrooms stored on high level shelving.
- (b) The suitably equipped first aid boxes will be available in the service.

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 September 2025 and for the serving of the fire detection and alarm system was 18.04.2025.

Requirement not met:

- (1)(b) There was no record of the number and type of the firefighting equipment on file.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was not displayed in the service.

Response from Provider:

- (1)(b)
There is a record of the number and type of firefighting equipment on display.

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	(3) The notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the service.
Summary Comment:	All documentation and photographs have been examined. The requirement for the regulation has been met.

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.
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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 partially met. (a) - From a visual assessment, the premises appeared to be sound and stable. (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 with the exception on one in the proposed playroom 2. - The heating system in the proposed service is an oil boiler system.
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	- The air temperature of the proposed care rooms and the children's sanitary accommodation was recorded between the range of care room was recorded between the range of 19 and 20 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. - The inspector was furnished with a cleaning checklist template. (e) - The sanitary facilities consisted of 3 children's toilets and 2 wash hand basins located outside the proposed playrooms. There were no nappy changing facilities in place. On discussion with the proposed registered provider, she is aware of the requirements for nappy changing. - There was adult sanitary accommodation provided in the National school. - 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.
Requirement not met:	The requirement has not been met in relation to the following: - (d) - The floor at the sides of the sink units in both playrooms were unclean and there were gaps in the wall surrounding the low-level pipe work that was attached to the sinks. - The thermostatic fittings on wall mounted radiators were not in place in the children's sanitary accommodation and in the entrance area where the children's coat hooks and bag storage were located. (e) - The requirement for sanitary accommodation for the proposed 40 children was not adequate. There were 3 toilets and 2 wash hand basins provided, the requirement is 1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin for every 11 children.

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Response from Provider:	(d) 1. There was foam inserted around the pipes and covered in wit wood to secure the area. The floor areas have been covered and cleared of debris. 2. Thermostatic fittings have been fitted (e) 3. A new sink has been fitted. With thermostatically controlled hot water.
Summary Comment:	The documentation and photographs received were examined. The requirement for the regulation has 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.*
- (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).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

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 in playroom 1 measured 51.54 square metres and measured 50.96 square metres in playroom 2, for the proposed number of 40 pre-school children in the proposed rooms. The registered provider 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
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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.