

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2026MH100							
Name of Service:	Ashbourne's Little Stars Childcare							
Address of Service:	Unit 3, Coach Drive, Ashbourne, Co Meath, A84VE09.							
Email Address:	Ashbournelittlestars@yahoo.com							
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Ewa Hetnal							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	☒	Part-Time	☐	Drop-In	☐		
	Sessional	☒	Childminding	☐	Temporary	☐		
Proposed service type:	Full Day Care and Sessional							
Proposed Number of Children:	50 Children aged 1 year to 6 years of age							
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	The service proposes to accommodate 50 children, age 1 – 6 years on a full-time basis and /or a sessional basis.							
Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care & Sessional Service							
Date of Inspection:	2	4	0	6	2	0	2	6
Inspection Undertaken by:	Á Dunne							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate Child and Family Agency Dublin North, Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15							
Rationale for Inspection								
Proposed New Service								
Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office								
Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care & Sessional Service							
Date of Registration:	20.07.2026							

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	Ashbourne Little Stars is one of 5 privately owned services operated by the registered provider. It is located in Ashbourne, Co Meath. The registered provider proposes to operate a service to provide sessional and full day care to children aged between 1 to 6 years. The proposed service will operate from 7:15am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday and accommodate a maximum of 50 children
Premises	The registered provider proposes to operate from a purpose-built unit situated on the ground floor of a residential premises in Ashbourne Co Meath. There are three care rooms, a separate sleep room for use by the children, an outdoor area to the rear of the service, a service kitchen for the preparation of meals, sanitary facilities for staff and children an administration office. The care rooms are: Room 1 Wobbler room (1-2 years), Room 2 Playgroup Room (2-3 years), Room 3 Preschool Room (3-5 years). There is associated car parking to the side of the building.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider will initially work in the proposed service and proposes to employ 11 staff to include, the designated person in charge, a cook, one cover staff member and 8 staff to work directly with the children. The designated person in charge will not be assigned to a care room but will be available to assist if required.
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 and Co-owner of the proposed Service 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 has a designated person in charge, and a named staff member will be 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 registered provider has proposed that the following number of adults will be working directly with the children attending the service.

Room Name	Number of Adults	Number and age profile of children.
Wobbler Room	3	15 Full day care (1-2 years)
Playgroup Room	3	18 Full Day care (2-3 years)
Preschool Room	2	14 Full day care or 17 Sessional (3-5 years)

Calculated as per Schedule 6 Adult: Child Ratios Part 1 Full day care service or part-time day care service.

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, or
- (b) where no such space is provided, the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1)(a) The proposed three care rooms are bright with clear floor space available to enable children to explore their environment and are equipped with a range of play materials and equipment suitable and accessible to the age and stage of development of the children attending each room. Low level furniture and shelving are available containing materials for free play, constructive play, creative play and imaginative play, with designated interest areas including home corner and small world play areas accessible to the children at their level. Outdoor Area: The outdoor area is positioned to the rear of the service and is surfaced with a soft pour artificial surface. The play materials available to the children include two play kitchens with two boxes of supporting equipment, a wooden boat, a see saw and a box of outdoor games toys. A sheltered area is available to enable the children to play in all weathers. (1)(b) Suitable window blinds are available in the care rooms to create a restful sleep environment for the children during sleep and rest time. The sleep room provides children under the age of two years access to 10 standard cots while children over the age of two years will be facilitated on 10 floor mats. Rest areas are provided in each of the care rooms to enable a child to take a break from activities if needed. The rest areas consisted of mats, cushions, and child size chairs. The service does not provide an overnight pre-school service. (3)(a) The requirement has been met. The service has an outdoor area to the rear of the premises enclosed by a 1.9 metre metal fence and one emergency exit door which leads directly to a public path. The service has installed a locking system which can be opened by staff.
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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. A healthy eating policy is in operation within the service with all meals and snacks provided to the children attending. Breakfast, a fruit break, a hot meal at lunch time, an afternoon tea and an evening snack is available during the day with additional food and
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snacks available should a child become hungry between meals. Drinking water is available in all the care rooms if a child becomes thirsty.

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.

- The main door of the service is controlled by an electronic buzzer system which is overseen by staff.
- All windows and doors in the service have visibility strips on them.
- The blind cords in the sleep room and care rooms are fitted and secured with cord restrictors.
- The play materials and equipment in the service are stored on stable-based low level shelving units. The play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the proposed children.
- The tables and chairs in the care rooms that are used for tabletop activities and mealtimes are the appropriate height for the age of children accommodated in the room.
- The emergency exit doors of the service are unobstructed.
- All storage of waste both indoors and outdoors is inaccessible to the children.
- A system is available for the safe storage of cleaning agents and equipment.

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 designated person in charge has a valid certificate for First Aid Responder training.

(2)(a)(b) The first aid boxes are suitably equipped and safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position each care room and in the staff room 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) A template is available to record fire drills that take place in the service.

(b) A record is available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service. Firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms were serviced on the 14 May 2026.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the entrance hall and in each care room of the premises. Two clearly displayed fire assembly notices are available outside of the service, to the front and to the rear, to enable staff and children to identify the fire assembly point.

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 a quotation for insurance from the 28 March 2026 to 27 March 2027 to cover 50 children on a full day care basis.

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) During the inspection it was observed that the walls, flooring, doors, and windows were suitably maintained, and inspector did not identify any safety issues or concerns.

(b) The main door of the service is controlled by an electronic buzzer system which is overseen by staff.

(c) Each care room has windows which provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights were fitted with shatter proof coverings.

Heating and ventilation are provided by a renewable energy air-conditioning system throughout the service.

The temperature of the care rooms was recorded between 20.5°C to 21.5°C on the day of inspection.

The sanitary facilities and nappy changing areas are fitted with mechanical ventilation systems to extract stale air.

(d) The care rooms were in a clean condition on the day of inspection. A cleaning schedule is available in the care rooms and sanitary facilities to ensure regular cleaning of the service.

(e) All of the sanitary facilities are fitted with mechanical ventilation systems.

Warm water not exceeding 43°C, liquid soap, paper hand towels in dispensers are provided in all sanitary facilities and care rooms. Pedal bins are provided for the disposal of paper hand towels.

Staff members use separate sanitary facilities.

One sanitary facility which is a disabled toilet, consisting of a toilet and wash hand basin is available for staff and located off the main corridor of the service.

There are three sanitary facilities present one of each care room.

There are sufficient sanitary facilities available in the service to accommodate the number and age profile of the children which the registered provider proposes to attend.

The sanitary facilities in the service comprised of the following.

Room Name	Facilities available
Wobbler Room	1 toilet, 1 nappy changing unit, 2 Wash Hand basins.
Playgroup Room	1 toilet, 1 nappy changing unit, 2 Wash Hand basins.
Preschool Room	2 toilets, 2 Wash Hand basins.
Total	4 toilets, 2 nappy changing units, 5 Wash Hand basins

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the service.

(2) The table below illustrates that the minimum clear floor space is available for 51 children aged from 1- 6 years on a full day care basis and 54 on a sessional basis.

Room Name	*Clear Floor Space available as per service	Floor space required per child	Floor space available as measured by inspectors
Wobbler room	53.43 sqm	2.8 sqm per child (aged 1 – 2 years.)	50.5 sqm
Playgroup room	46.68 sqm	2.35 sqm per child (aged 2 – 3 years.)	44.8 sqm
Preschool Room	32 sqm	2.3 sqm (3 – 6 years full day care) or 1.818 sqm (2 years 8 months to 5 years sessional)	31.151sqm

*Calculated as per Schedule 7 Minimum Space Requirements Full day care service or part-time day care service.

Based on the information provided by the registered provider the proposed age profile within the care-rooms, the clear floor space available may accommodate the

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proposed number of 50 children aged from 1 to 6 years of age on a full-time care basis.

(3) The registered provider ensured that a minimum space of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service on a sessional basis.

(4)(a) The minimum clear floor space is available for the duration of the sessional preschool service.

(b) The minimum clear floor space is available for a full day care service.