

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2026CN100							
Name of Service:	Little Squirrels Childcare							
Address of Service:	Lisnabunry, Virginia, Cavan. A82 X9N6							
Email Address:	amandaduffy24@gmail.com							
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Amanda Jennings							
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 (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Sessional Service 22 children 2 to 5 years							
Registered service:	Service Registered							
Date of Inspection:	0	6	0	8	2	0	2	6
Inspection Undertaken by:	S Mc Kenna							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Drumalee, Cootehill Road, Co Cavan. H12 YY84							
Rationale for Inspection								
Proposed New Service								

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

Registration Status:	Service Registered
Date of Registration:	11.08.2026

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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	Little Squirrels Childcare is a newly established privately owned childcare service. The service proposes to operate a sessional service, Monday to Friday, for 38 weeks per year. The service proposes to partake in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme during the hours of 9.30am to 12.30pm. The service is registered to provide school-aged care.
Premises	The service will operate from the ground floor of a converted garage, located next to the registered provider's home. One preschool room and sanitary facilities are available. There is an outdoor area located directly outside the preschool room.
Staffing	There are 4 staff, including the registered provider, employed to work with the preschool children. An additional staff member is employed to work with school-aged children.
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 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:

The requirement has been met.

The service has a designated person in charge, and a named person to deputise in their absence.

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. The registered provider is aware of the requirements of this regulation in relation to adult: child ratios.

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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:

The requirements of this regulation have been met.

(1) (a) Adequate and suitable facilities have been provided for children to play indoors during the day. A variety of toys, play materials and equipment and designated interest areas are available in the preschool room.

(b) Adequate and suitable facilities are provided for the children to rest on if required. Sleep mats and bedding are available for children over 2 years old who may require a sleep. There is a cosy area with two child sized teepee's, cushions and floor mats within the preschool room.

(2) A secure outdoor area is available to the children attending the service, which is located directly off the preschool room.

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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 children that attend the service will bring in their own food items from home for snack time. The children's drink bottles will be stored on a drink station table and will be accessible in the preschool room throughout the day.

The registered provider advised the inspector that additional food items are available in the kitchen should a child have insufficient amounts of their age and the time spent in the service on a particular day.

A fridge is available in the preschool room for the storage of perishable food items.

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 external doors are secured by thumb turn locks. This prevents children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised access.

The emergency exit doors were unobstructed throughout the inspection.

There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins throughout the service.

Cleaning schedules are available for the service. The service was presented in a clean manner.

Thermostatically controlled hot water for hand washing purposes was provided to a maximum temperature of 37°C.

Radiator surface temperatures were controlled to a maximum of 49.5°C.

The designated fire assembly point is located on a grassed area, to the front of the registered provider's home.

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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 will ensure that there is an adult with up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training on the premises at all times. Six staff members hold current in date FAR training.

(2) (a) and (b)

An adequately stocked first aid box is located in the preschool room and is available to the children at all times.

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 demonstrated that a template to record fire drills when the service is operational was available, and that fire drills will be carried out on a monthly basis.

(b) There was a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment, which was recently serviced on 08 April 2026, and the fire detection and alarm system was carried out on 14 April 2026.

(4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed throughout the preschool room.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

An insurance certificate was provided which covers up to 22 preschool children in attendance on a Sessional care basis and expires on the 27 March 2027.

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) On visual inspection, the building appears safe and sound. The registered provider confirmed that they had no knowledge of any structural defects.
 - (b) The service is adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry.
 - (c) The service is adequately lit and heated. The lighting is provided by a mixture of natural light leading from openable windows, which is supplemented with fluorescent ceiling lights which were fitted with protective covers. The service is heated by oil central heating. The sanitary areas and preschool room are ventilated by openable windows.
 - (d) Cleaning schedules are available and in place, and the premises are maintained in a clean condition.
 - (e) The sanitary facilities available in the service can cater for a maximum of 22 preschool children.
- Two toilets and two wash hand basins are located in the sanitary area directly off the preschool room. A nappy changing mat is available if required.

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Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and single-use paper hand towels are available at all of the hand wash sinks.

There is one toilet and one wash hand basin available for the adults, located in a separate sanitary area directly off the preschool room.

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) & (3) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of 22 preschool children. The floor space available in the proposed Preschool room is 56m².