



Little Stars on the Lane – Theatre Lane
Persons in Charge Ciara Watson, Kara Gargolinski Mc Alister
Manager: Lidiane De Soares
087 9261318

Child Safeguarding Statement

Little stars on the lane is a creche providing full day care, sessional care and afterschool to children from 2 - 12 years. We are open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.30pm.

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, childcare regulations of 1991, 2016 and the QRF document and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, Little Stars on the Lane has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

Activities:

Activities will include arts and crafts, baking, garden time, coding classes, ballet classes, time to relax and read, time to complete homework.

1. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is **Ciara Watson and Kara Gargolinski Mc Alister**
2. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is **Nina Patterson**
3. Little Stars on the Lane recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of afterschool life and must be reflected in all the preschool's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the preschool will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The preschool will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
 - fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
 - fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
 - adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
 - develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
 - fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.
4. The following procedures/measures are in place:
 - In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the creche, the creche adheres to the relevant procedures set out in our policy documents, which are available on starsonthelane.ie and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for creche staff that are set out therein.
 - In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the preschool adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting guidelines, international vetting guidelines and QRF documentation.
 - In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the preschool-

- Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant children's first training
 - Little Stars on the Lane maintains records of all staff member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Children's First guidance including those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
 - Little Stars on the Lane has appointed the abovenamed DLP as the "relevant person" (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
 - All staff employed by the preschool are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
 - In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Little Stars on the Lane has carried out an assessment of any "potential for harm" to a child while attending the preschool or participating in preschool activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the preschool's procedures for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to these procedures.
5. This statement has been published on the preschool's website (www.naionra.org) and has been provided to all members of preschool personnel. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.
6. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by Little Stars on the Lane on _____

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Owner of Little Stars on the Lane

DLP/ Manager of the preschool

Date: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1: Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Global Garden.

1. List of school activities

- Daily arrival and dismissal of children
- Classroom time
- Outdoor activities
- Toileting of children
- Care of children with special educational needs, including intimate care where needed,
- Management of challenging behaviour amongst children.
- Administration of Medicine
- Administration of First Aid
- Prevention of bullying amongst children
- Training of preschool personnel in child protection matters
- Volunteers/Parents in preschool activities
- Visitors/contractors present in preschool during school hours
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by children in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record preschool events
- Arts and crafts time
- Baking
- Coding classes
- Baking
- Ballet classes

2. The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities;

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm to child while a child is receiving intimate care
- Risk of harm due challenging behavior.
- Risk of harm due to COVID outbreak
- We believe the following:
 - Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.
 - Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.
 - All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
 - We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person who attends our service, including the rights to be kept safe and protected from harm, listened to, and heard.
 - Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
 - Workers/volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.
- Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member of staff/ volunteer;
- Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by a visitor to the service;
- Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child on outings by a member of staff/volunteer stranger/peer;
- Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child through the use of unauthorised photography;
- Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child through social media/internet use;
- Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child by bullying by a peer or older child/ young person.

The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment

- All preschool personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- All staff must have up to date training in Children's First Guidelines. This constitutes each staff's statutory responsibility in respect of child protection.
- Preschool personnel are required to adhere to all our policies, and in particular, our toileting policy, our child protection policy, our management of behavior policy and child supervision policy. We also have a robust policy on the use of computers, IT and photographic equipment. Any breach of any policy is considered an act of Gross misconduct and would trigger the staff procedures in relation to this.
- All staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and all staff are mandated persons. All staff are trained in children first.
- The preschool adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation.
- The preschool has an intimate care/ toileting policy in respect of children who require such care.
- The school has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of medication.
- The afterschool has in place a policy on child protection and what to do to report concerns. Staff are trained in children's first and regular in house top up training occurs to keep all learnings top of date. Within this there is a procedure for reporting harm, abuse or allegations of these to TUSLA, by the manager, provider, or a member of staff of the provider (whether mandated or otherwise). There is also a procedure for the management of allegations of abuse of misconduct against workers/ volunteers of a child care service availing of our service.
- The afterschool has a robust recruitment policy. We follow the same level of care for our afterschool staff as we do for our preschool staff, therefore meeting current childcare regulations.
- All staff in the service are mandated persons. A staff roster is kept, along with a staff roll book. An escalation policy is outlined in our child protection policy that has been inspected by TUSLA in-house. The manager and owner are the direct point of escalation for all enquiries.
- Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
- Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
- Maintains records of all staff training
- The preschool has in place a policy and procedures for the administration of First Aid
- The preschool has in place a behavior management policy
- The preschool has in place an ICT policy in respect of usage of ICT on the preschool premises
- The preschool has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The preschool has an enhanced infection control policy in relation to COVID and COVID policy. All staff have been trained in these policies and practices.

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. General health and safety risk has been addressed through our Safety Statement and associated risk assessments.

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavored to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by Little Stars on the Lane. It shall be reviewed as part of the preschool's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

Signed _____ Date _____

Owner of Little Stars on the Lane

Signed _____ Date _____

Appendix 2: Checklist for Review of the Child Safeguarding Statement

TUSLA (Child and Family Agency) best practice is that Little Stars on the Lane must undertake a review of its Child Safeguarding Statement and that the following checklist shall be used for this purpose. The review must be completed every year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the Child Safeguarding Statement refers. Undertaking an annual review will also ensure that a preschool also meets its statutory obligation under section 11(8) of the Children First Act 2015, to review its Child Safeguarding Statement every two years.

	Yes/No
1. Has Little Stars on the Lane (Global Garden) formally adopted a Child Safeguarding Statement in accordance with Children's First Guidelines?	Yes
2. Does the preschool's Child Safeguarding Statement include a written assessment of risk as required under the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
3. Has Little Stars on the Lane (Global Garden) reviewed and updated where necessary the assessment of risk as part of this overall review?	Yes
4. Has the DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
5. Has the Deputy DLP attended available child protection training?	Yes
6. Have all members of staff attended child protection training?	Yes
7. Are there both a DLP and a Deputy DLP currently appointed?	Yes
8. Are the relevant contact details (Tusla and An Garda Síochána) to hand?	Yes
9. Has Little Stars on the Lane (Global Garden) arrangements in place to copy the preschool's Child Safeguarding Statement to new school personnel?	Yes
10. Is Little Stars on the Lane (Global Garden) satisfied that all preschool personnel have been made aware of their responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015?	Yes
11. Were any child protection matters reported correctly to DLP, Owner and General Manager and TUSLA if required?	Yes
12. Is Little Stars on the Lane (Global Garden) satisfied that all records relating to child protection are appropriately filed and stored securely?	Yes
13. Has Little Stars on the Lane (Global Garden) ensured that the preschool's Child Safeguarding Statement is available to parents on request?	Yes
14. Is Little Stars on the Lane satisfied that the statutory requirements for Garda Vetting are met in respect of all preschool personnel (employees and volunteers)? *	Yes
15. Is Little Stars on the Lane satisfied that, from a child protection perspective, thorough recruitment and selection procedures are applied by the school in relation to all school personnel (employees and volunteers) as set out in the QRF document (2018)?	Yes
16. Has Little Stars on the Lane identified any aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that require further improvement?	Yes
17. Has Little Stars on the Lane (Global Garden) put in place an action plan containing clear timelines to address those aspects of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and/or its implementation that have been identified as requiring further improvement?	Yes
18. Has Little Stars on the Lane (Global Garden) ensured that any areas for improvement identified in any previous review of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement have been adequately addressed?	Yes

Owners:

Kara Gargolinski Mc Alister

Signed _____

Date **14/07/2023**

Ciara Watson, Owner , DLP

Signed _____

Date **14/07/2023**

DLP (relevant Person)

Lidiane De Soares

Signed _____

Date: 14/07/2023

