

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015CC011

**Name of Service** Aghada Community Playgroup CLG

**Address of Service:** Upper Aghada, Midleton, Cork.

**Email Address:** aghadaplaygroup@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Sharon Carey

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed change:** Change in service type from sessional to full day and sessional.  
Change in hours of operation to 8.45am to 4.00pm.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 36 – no change

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Change in service type to full day care and sessional.  
Change in hours of operation to 8.45am to 4.00pm.  
36 children sessional service, 30 children full day care.

**Registered change:** Change in Service Type from Sessional to Full Day & Sessional  
Change in Hours from 08:45 – 11:45, 09:00 – 12:00 & 13:00 – 16:00 to 08:45 – 16:00  
Number of Children from 36 to 36 (Max 30 Full Day) children

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	3	1	1	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection undertaken by:** D Prendergast

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate,  
Administration Building, St Mary’s Health Campus,  
Gurrabraher, Cork

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### Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day & Sessional Service for 36 (Max 30 Full Day) children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2024

### 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Aghada Community Playgroup CLG is currently registered as a sessional service, which accommodates children aged two to six years, including children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. Current registered daily opening hours are from 8.45am to 11.45am and from 9.00am to 12.00pm in the morning and from 1.00pm to 4.00pm in the afternoon.</p> <p>The registered provider has put forward a proposal to provide full day care and to increase the service's hours of operation.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>Located in a residential area of Aghada in Co. Cork, the premises consists of a single storey, prefabricated building. There are two operational care rooms, along with adjacent child and adult sanitary facilities, an office and a kitchen. The children have access to a shared canopy area and two outdoor play spaces, located at the side and rear of the premises.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>At present, there are seven adults employed by the service, including the registered provider and two adults employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) support scheme.</p>
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>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 the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p>

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	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 registering the change in circumstance. 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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children 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 registered provider is the person in charge of operating the service and a named deputy has also been nominated. This information is displayed in the main entrance area of the setting.

### 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 existing sessional service can accommodate up to 36 children, aged 2 to 6 years, with 6 adults responsible for their care and supervision. This includes two AIM support staff. The registered provider is aware of the ratio requirements for children attending full day care and will ensure that the correct adult to child ratios are maintained, according to the number and age range of children who will be attending.

The registered provider has also provided an assurance that a minimum of two adults will be on the premises at all times, while the service is in operation.

### 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.
- (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 (2) 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

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) A good variety of play and learning resources are readily available in both care rooms, for the children’s use. These include play kitchens, furnished dolls houses, construction materials, jigsaws, books, interest items that support gross motor development and art and craft supplies. The low set display units used to store these materials provide the children with ease of access. Child sized furniture is also in sufficient supply.

The outdoor play environments are equipped to support active play, creativity, exploration and gross motor development. For example, there is a selection of ride on toys, along with a climbing frame, a swing set, repurposed boats, a sand pit and goal posts. Natural materials such as tree stumps, wooden tables and a wooden balance beam are also included, as well as some sheltered areas.

(b) Suitable spaces are provided for any child, who may wish to rest during the day. In both Room 1 and Room 2, these areas consist of vinyl sofas, which are located next to well stocked bookshelves. A supply of five sleep mats is available for any child requiring sleep while in attendance. Fitted sheets for these mats have been ordered and delivery is awaited. A quiet corner of Room 1 will be used to accommodate sleeping children.

(3)

(a) The children will have the use of a suitable, safe and secure outdoor play environment on the premises.

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### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### 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.

Review of the Healthy eating policy has demonstrated that it is appropriate for the category of service proposed. Meals provided over the course of the day will include a mid-morning snack, a hot meal for children attending longer than five hours and an evening snack. Children’s parents or guardians will supply snacks for the mid-morning and evening meal breaks and a hot meal, where applicable. The service will provide additional snacks, such as bread, cereal and fruit. A microwave and an oven are available for reheating meals. All of the children will have access to drinking water both during and outside of the allocated mealtimes. There is a supply of crockery and cutlery available for the children’s use.

### 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.

##### General safety:

- Cleaning agents and equipment are safely stored.
- There are no cables or flexes within reach of the children.
- Radiator covers are in place, to protect children from scald injuries.
- Firefighting equipment is securely wall mounted.
- Both of the first aid boxes are stored on high-level shelving.
- Shock absorbing surfacing is available as a soft fall area, underneath the climbing frame, in the outdoor play environment.
- Fire exits are free from obstruction and fire exit signs are illuminated.

##### Infection control:

- Hygienic handwashing and drying is supported through the availability of warm running water, liquid soap and adequately stocked paper towel dispensers. Foot pedal operated bins are also in place in the sanitary areas.
- Single use aprons and gloves are accessible for nappy changing procedures.
- Refrigerators are available for the storage of perishable foods.

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- Photograph labelled wall hooks are in use to store the children’s coats and bags.

### 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) Records are available to demonstrate that three adults hold current First Aid Responder (FAR) certification.
  - (2)
    - (a) Two first aid boxes are accessible at adult height; one in each care room.
    - (b) The first aid supplies will be 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 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:

- The requirement has been met.
- (1)
    - (a) The most recent fire drill is recorded as 21 October 2024 and provision is in place to document future monthly fire drills.
    - (b) A list of the number and type of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms is on file. A certificate of servicing for the firefighting equipment is dated 14 November 2024. The most recent servicing record for the wired smoke alarm is dated 16 January 2024.
  - (4) Notices, outlining the steps to be taken in the event of a fire, are displayed in both care rooms. Fire evacuation plans are also visible. Clear signage for the designated assembly point, is in place.

### Part VI – Safety

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### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the registration team prior to this 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.

### 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) A visual assessment was conducted and the building appears to be of sound and stable structure. The care rooms and sanitary areas are in a good state of repair.
- (b) The main access gate to the premises was found to be secure on arrival, which reduced the risk of unauthorised access. The entrance door to the building is secured with a keypad mechanism and exit through the same door is via a high-level door release switch. The outdoor play area is enclosed by a combination of fencing, walls and secured gates.
- (c)
  - In each care room, there are natural sources of light provided from three windows and an additional window panel on the fire exit door. Fluorescent tube lighting and protective covers are also in place and are functioning correctly. LED lighting and windows are available in the sanitary areas. In the kitchen and office, light is ensured through a combination of windows and fluorescent lighting.
  - Thermostatically controlled electric radiators are in use in various locations throughout the premises. The air temperatures in the care rooms and sanitary facilities fell within the recommended range of 18°C to 22°C.
  - Openable windows provide a natural source of ventilation in the care rooms, sanitary facilities, kitchen and office.
- (d) A programme of cleaning, which reflects each area within the service, is in place. Staff sign cleaning records to this effect. The care rooms and sanitary facilities are clean and well maintained. All examined play materials were in

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good working order.

- (e) Four low-level toilets and four wash hand basins are available in the shared children's sanitary facility, which is adjacent to both care rooms. A nappy changing unit is provided within the staff sanitary facility, which also includes one toilet and two wash hand basins. The premises is serviced by a public water and sewage system.

### 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 sessional pre-school service, and
  - 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) Sufficient clear floor space is ensured within the care rooms for the work, play and movement of children.
- (2) The available clear floor space within Room 1 was measured at 36.6m<sup>2</sup> and Room 2 was also measured at 36.6m<sup>2</sup>. This meets the requirement for up to 30 children aged 2 to 6 years to attend the proposed full day care service, with a maximum of 15 children in each room.
- (3) & (4) The available clear floor space ensures that each of the 36 children currently attending the sessional service have a minimum of 1.818 square meters.