

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015CC042

**Name of Service** Ballyhea Childcare Ltd.

**Address of Service:** Ballycoskery, Ballyhea, Co Cork, P56 WR50

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Lorraine Fitzgibbon

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input 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"/>

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Change in premises
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	22
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	Approve change
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in premises (at same location) at Ballycoskery, Ballyhea, Co Cork, P56 WR50

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	9	0	7	2	0	2	3
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**Inspection undertaken by:** F. Collins  
**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:**  
 134 Bank Place,  
 Mallow,  
 Co Cork.

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
 Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> August 2023

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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Ballyhea Childcare Limited is a sessional service located in a purpose-built building which is situated to the side of the National school in Ballyhea, North Cork.</p> <p>A three-hour sessional service is provided from the premises for 38 weeks of the year and accommodates the Early Childhood Care and Education programme (ECCE). This is a play-based service and provides care and education to children between the ages of two and six years. The service is open Monday to Friday between 8.45 and 11:45 daily.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The premises is a newly constructed block building which replaced the prefabricated structure. The service consists of a large care room and a smaller quiet room. There are services of children's toilets, staff toilet, an office, a kitchen and storage facilities.</p> <p>The outdoor area consists of two areas, one with concrete surface and the other which is fully covered with soft matting.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The service will be staffed by three adults, all of whom are appropriately qualified.</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> <p>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.</p>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge who was present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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:**

(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a deputy named.

### 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:**

(1) The registered provider will ensure that there are adequate adults working with the children. The proposal is for three adults to be working with 22 children for the three-hour sessional 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—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises 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:**

(1) (a) There are adequate facilities for the children to play indoors. The indoor main care room is of adequate size to accommodate tables and chairs for each child. Areas where play resources are set up to allow for independent and group play are developed throughout the room. Toys and resources are at a height that is accessible to all children.

The second room accessible to the children is for quiet time. This area includes a child height couch and a tent with hard sides to the back and front within which there is a soft floor and cushions. This area will be used by the children to rest and relax.

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	<p>The facilities for play outside are at two sides of the pre-school. One area is concrete where the proposal will be for sand and water play and also will accommodate the planting carried out by the children annually. The second area is covered in soft matting which will be used for activities such as ride on toys, the slide and climbing frame and for football.</p> <p>(2) (b) The registered provider of this sessional service has ensured that the outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure. The area is accessed via the main gate which is secured by keypad electromagnetic locks where the code is only known by the staff. The outdoor space is surrounded on all sides by high green fencing and some solid fencing outside the main entrance.</p>
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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 service has a fridge to store the food and drinks provided by parents/guardians for snack time. The service ensures all parents/guardians are issued with the Healthy eating policy prior to commencing in the service. The service will have cheese, crackers and yogurt available in the event a child forgets their snack.

### 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:

- There was access to a fridge in the entrance lobby which was accessible to the children and would ensure the safe storage of perishable items contained in children's lunches.
- There was access to hot water, liquid hand soap and to paper towels at each of the children's sinks and to a hand dryer in the staff toilet.
- There were lidded pedal operated bins available for the disposal of the used paper towels in the toilets and in the care room beside the sink.
- Medications will be stored in the kitchen should they require refrigeration and in the high press in the care room should they not require refrigeration.
- The kitchen area was secured by a locked door.
- There were no full-length glass doors. The windows were secured with safety restrictors.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of the reach of children in the kitchen.
- The dedicated outdoor play area was fitted with high fencing and with a high gate to the front.

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- The toys and equipment were free from pinch and crush points.
- The high shelving unit in the service was secured.
- All electric cords and cables observed were in good condition.
- The fire exit doors were unobstructed. The doors were secured with thumb turn locks and electromagnetic locking mechanisms.
- The hot water in the sinks was recorded at 31.3°C in the children’s toilets.

### 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—
- is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
  - is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

#### Requirement met:

- (1) The registered provider has ensured that three staff have up to date First Aid Responder training. This will ensure that there is an adult available to the children at all times who is trained in first aid.
- (2) (a) There was a first aid box available in the care room, this was appropriately stocked and was accessible in the high press.  
(b) The first aid box was available in the care room.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
  - 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 had a means identified on how all fire drills would be recorded. The fire assembly point was to the front of the building by the entrance gate.  
(b) The servicing of the firefighting equipment was last completed in 10.07.2023. The commissioning of the fire detection (Alarm) system was completed on 26.03.2023.
- (4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed at the main entrance door.

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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:

**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:

- (a) The premises which is purpose built is at the rear of the local national school. The building appeared to be of sound and stable structure. The building compliance certificate from the engineer was available.
- (b) The entrance to the service was at the front of the building. The designated outdoor spaces were secured by high fencing and a high secured gate to ensure the preschool children could play safely in the outdoor space. The doors to the service were secured with thumb turn locks and electromagnetic locks and ensured that no child could leave the service and no unauthorised person could gain access to the premises.
- (c) The lighting for the main care room was by nine covered fluorescent lights and with nine windows. The quiet room was lit by two covered fluorescent lights and one window. The toilets were lit by fluorescent lights and through windows. This level of lighting would allow the children to carry out activities without shadows. The room was heated by an underfloor heating system. The care room temperature on inspection was 22.0°C. This would afford the children comfort when playing and doing activities. The air to water heating system could be controlled by thermostats. Ventilation was through openable windows throughout. The children's toilets were ventilated through openable windows.
- (d) The premises was clean, well maintained and appeared to be in a good state of repair.
- (e) There were three children's toilets and three wash hand basins. The adult toilet had a wash hand basin adjacent. There were no nappy changing facilities as the services policy was that children were toilet trained when enrolled in the service.

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### 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) There was adequate floor space available in the service for the work, play and movement of 22 children.

(3) The main care room measured 57.85SqM. The quiet room measured at 11.02SqM.