

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015CC104

Name of Service Clonmult/Dungourney Community Pre-School

Address of Service: Clonmult Community Hall, Clonmult, Co Cork P25 Y754

Email Address: clonmultdungourneypreschool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Karen Buckner

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	ü	Sessional	ü
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Change in service type from sessional to part time & sessional
Change in hours of operation from 8.50am – 11.50am to 8.50am – 1.20pm.

Proposed Number of Children: 22 sessional (no change)
16 part time

Recommended Change Following Inspection: 22 sessional and 16 part time.

Registered change: Change in service type from sessional to part time & sessional, 22 (Max16 part-time) children
Change in hours of operation from 8.50am – 11.50am to 8.50am – 1.20pm.

Date of Inspection: 1 8 0 7 2 0 2 5

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 T23 X440.

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Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part-Time & Sessional Service for 22(max 16 Part-Time) Children
Date of Registration	28th July 2025

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	This early years service is currently registered to provide sessional care and education to children aged 2 to 6 years. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme is accommodated over a 38-week annual period.
Premises	Situated in a rural village, in Clonmult in east Cork, the service operates from a room within a single storey, community centre. Children's and adults' sanitary facilities are provided adjacent to the care room. A second room, referred to as the outside room, leads to the enclosed outdoor play area and is available as additional space. The setting also includes an office and a kitchen.
Staffing	Two adults and one relief staff member are currently employed at the service. All three of these adults work directly with the children, including the registered provider.
Methodology	<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</p>

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, who was 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. The registered provider is the person in charge of operating the early years service. A deputy has also been appointed.
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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) It is proposed that 3 adults will work directly with the 22 children, aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years, who will attend the sessional service. Up to 16 of these children will remain for part time care. The registered provider has confirmed that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children attending part time care and that there will be a minimum of two adults on the premises at all times.
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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.*
- (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*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1)
 - (a) Indoor play and exploration within the care room and outside room will be facilitated through the provision of a range of developmentally appropriate play materials, which are stored on low set, open shelving, or at floor level. The outdoor play area includes equipment such as slides, a mud kitchen, digging toys, a sand tray, handheld vehicles and a play shop.
 - (b) Adequate rest facilities are available for children. A cosy area is incorporated into the care room and there is a supply of four sleep mats and linen, for any child that may require sleep while in attendance.
- (3)
 - (a) An outdoor play area is located at the rear of the premises. Following assessment, this play space is deemed to be suitable, safe and secure.

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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.
A healthy eating policy is in place and the registered provider confirmed that a copy of this policy will be given to the children’s parents. Food for the children’s snacks will be provided by parents or guardians. In the event that alternative or additional snacks are required, a supply of fruit and non-perishable foods will be maintained at the service. A fridge is accessible in the kitchen, for the storage of perishable foods. Appropriate crockery and cutlery are available for children’s use at mealtimes. Should a child become thirsty during the day, they will have access to drinking water.

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:

- Window blind cords are securely anchored with suitable tension devices.
- Visibility markings are evident on the glass panel door to the outdoor area.
- Cleaning agents are stored in the kitchen.
- There are no trailing cables or flexes accessible to the children.
- The first aid box is located at a high level, in the care room.
- All examined toys and play equipment are safe and maintained in good condition.
- Fire extinguishers are wall mounted.
- Fire exit doors are maintained free from obstruction.

Infection control:

- Warm water, liquid soap and foot pedal operated bins are provided adjacent to each of the wash hand basins across the service. Disposable paper towels are available in the children’s sanitary facility and an electric hand dryer is in use in the staff sanitary facility.
- Wall hooks are in place for the storage of children’s coats and personal belongings.

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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) An up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) certificate is on file for one staff member. The registered provider is aware that a FAR trained adult must be available to the children throughout the hours of operation.
- (2)
 - (a) An adequately stocked first aid kit is available.
 - (b) The first aid supplies will be consistently accessible throughout the service’s opening hours.

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) Provision to record the undertaking of monthly fire drills is in place.
 - (b) The service has a document, which details the number and type of firefighting equipment available on the premises. According to the servicing records, the firefighting equipment was last checked on 23 July 2024 and the wired smoke alarm was tested on 27 February 2025.
- (4) A notice, outlining the steps to be taken in the event of a fire, is displayed in the main care room. Clear signage for the designated fire assembly point is in place.

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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 change in circumstance 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 provider's 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) From a visual assessment, the premises appears to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The main entrance door is secured by a key lock, to prevent access by unauthorised persons. The sensor operated door release mechanism on the interior of the door is positioned at adult height, which will reduce the risk of a child exiting unsupervised. The outdoor play area is enclosed by high-level fencing and the walls of the building.
- (c)
 - In the care room, adequate lighting is ensured through a combination of fluorescent tube lighting and windows, which allow for natural sunlight.
 - Gas heating is in place. The temperatures in the care room and in the sanitary facilities fell within the recommended range of 18°C – 22°C.
 - Openable windows are provided in the care rooms and in the sanitary facilities.
- (d) Cleaning schedules are available for the various areas within the service.
- (e) There are two toilet cubicles and two wash hand basins accessible for the children's use and two additional toilets and wash hand basins are provided on the premises for staff members. The registered provider advised that the proposed part time service will cater for children who are toilet trained,

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therefore, no nappy changing facilities are required.

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.
- (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) There is sufficient clear floor space available in the care room, for the children to engage with materials, participate in activities and move freely within the environment.

(2) The care room was measured at 42.06 m².

(4)(a) & (b)

The registered provider proposes to contemporaneously accommodate children attending the sessional service and the part time service. The care room allows for each of the 22 children attending the sessional service, to have a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space during this time.