

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D:** TU2015CC154

**Name of Service** First Steps Creche

**Address of Service:** 4 Marrick, Halycon Drive, Silversprings, Cork, T23 RY89

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Rosaleen Cotter

<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 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 the age profile.
- Change in the number of children to 24

**Proposed Number of Children:** 24

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:**

- The service will cater for children from 1 to 6 years.
- The service can cater for a maximum of 24 children,
  - 3 children between 1 and 2 years
  - 21 children between 2 and 6 years.

The registered provider stated at time of inspection that she proposes the service will cater for more children over 2 years and less children under 2 years.

**Registered change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 18 to 24  
Change in age profile from 0 – 6 yrs to 1 – 6 yrs

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	1	0	9	2	0	2	3
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**Inspection undertaken by:** Ms. M O'Reilly

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus  
Gurrabraher, Cork, T23X440

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care Service for 24 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2023

### 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>First Steps Creche is a privately owned early years service that is currently registered to cater for children from 0 to 6 years. The service proposes to cater for children from 1 to 6 years. The service proposes to increase the maximum number of children the service can cater for at any one time from 18 to 24. This will depend on the age group of the children attending.</p> <p>The service is open from Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm and includes the children attending Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>First Steps Creche operates from a ground floor detached domestic building that has been converted into an early years service. The service is in a residential, urban setting in the outskirts of Cork city There is two playrooms and a multipurpose room that the children from both playrooms use for play, dining and sleep. The service has an entrance hall, adequate adult and children’s toilet and nappy changing facilities, a storeroom and administration office. The children have access to a designated secure outdoor play area located beside the facility.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>There are currently five adults assigned to this service. All adults working directly with the children hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education or an equivalent qualification as per the national framework of qualifications.</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</p>

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	<p>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>	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.

(a) The service had a named designated person in charge and a named deputy. The named person in charge was on leave on day of inspection. The registered provider was present for the fit for purpose inspection.

### 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 five adults will be employed who will work directly with the children.

The service was in operation at the time of the fit for purpose inspection. There were a total of fourteen children in attendance with the registered provider, deputy and two staff in attendance. There were 5 children between 1 and 2 years and 9 children between 2 and 6 years.

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.*
- (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) There are low shelves provided in the playrooms that are accessible to the children. The shelves are stocked with a large selection of activities, equipment and play materials that are all functioning and maintained in good condition. There is a designated outdoor play area available at the service.

(1)(b). There are 10 foldable standard type cots with well-fitting safety mattresses stored in a separate storeroom when not in use. There is an adequate number of standard cots for the number of children proposed between 1 and 2 years that will attend the service with individual accompanying bed linen.

There was suitable sleep equipment for children over 2 years that required a sleep while attending the service. Stacking beds were available with suitable individual bed linen and the person in charge stated that the bed linen was changed weekly or when required. There was a designated rest area provided in both playrooms consisting of soft seating and floor mats.

(2)(a), (3)(a) There is a designated partially covered outdoor play area provided beside the premise. The outdoor play area has an all-weather surface, that is completely

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enclosed with a block wall and a timber gate with a lock at adult height. The outdoor play area is adequately secured when the children are playing outdoors.

### 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.

- The breakfast, mid-morning, mid-afternoon snack and tea consumed on the premise is provided by the service. The children avail of the outsourced contracted hot meal service. The food is reheated and is served to the children by the adults in the service. They were served adequate portions of chicken goujons, beans and mashed potato with water to drink served at lunch time at time of inspection.
- It was observed that the children’s drinking bottles were stored at child height ensuring the children had access to drinking water at all times.
- There was a menu available.
- There was adequate refrigeration present in the service for the storage of perishable foods.

### 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 requirements have been met.

- The main door to the service is adequately secured reducing the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premises or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- All toys and play equipment in the proposed playrooms are safe and in good condition.
- There was thermostatically controlled warm water, antibacterial liquid soap dispensers, paper hand towels at the wash hand basin for hygienic hand washing and hygienic hand drying in the adult and children’s toilet facilities and nappy changing area.
- The openable windows on the ground floor have restrictive opening devices.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cords attached to the window blinds are all secured by wall brackets.</li> <li>• Cleaning equipment and materials are stored on a high shelf in each of the playrooms and toilet facilities and are inaccessible to children.</li> <li>• There is a first aid box on the ground and is stored on a shelf located at adult height in the playroom.</li> <li>• The exit doors are unobstructed.</li> </ul>
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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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>(a) The first aid box was stored on a shelf at adult height in the playroom.</p> <p>(b) The first aid box was adequately stocked and readily accessible by staff.</p>
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### 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) (a) The requirement is met in relation to the provision of a form for recording monthly fire drills. Fire drills were taking place monthly and the last recorded monthly fire drill was on the 01/08/2023.</p> <p>(b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment and wired smoke alarm is available on file. Service maintenance records were available that the fire equipment and smoke alarms were serviced on an annual basis.</p>
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(4) The service has a designated assembly point in the event of a fire. A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed on the premise.

### 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.

A record of insurance to cover for 30 children is available on file and the insurance will expire on the 27/03/24.

### 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.

The walls in the playrooms were recently painted and child friendly murals were painted on the walls. Renovations to the nappy changing area were complete and a washable contact had been applied to the walls behind the nappy changing area and the wash hand basin.

(a) The provider proposes to operate a sessional and full day care service in a facility that has been adapted to provide an early years' service.

(b) The entrance door to the preschool is adequately secured to prevent access by an unauthorised adult or exit by a child.

(c) There are openable windows in each of the proposed playrooms and in the children's toilet. There is a mechanical operated ventilation system in the nappy changing room.

There are an adequate number of fluorescent lights fitted with covers in the proposed playrooms.

Heating is provided by gas. The playrooms air temperature and toilet area air temperatures were recorded at 20 to 21°C during the inspection.

(d) Cleaning schedules were available, and all the play materials are clean and in good condition.

(e) The ratio of children's toilets and nappy changing units is 11 children to every one toilet and 11 children that require nappy changing to every 1 nappy changing facility. There are two designated toilets and two wash hand basins provided for the children in attendance. There is a separate nappy changing room with a wash hand basin

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available. There is a designated adult toilet and wash hand basin available for use by the adults. There are an adequate number of adult and children's toilets and nappy changing facilities in the service.  
The premise is serviced by a public sewage system and the water source is from a public supply.

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

Wobbler room	24.7 square meters	1 to 2 years = a maximum of 3 children (2.8 square meters per child) 2 to 3 years = a maximum of 7 children (2.3 square meters per child)  Total = 10 children
Preschool Room	24.7square meters	2 years 6 months to 6 years  14 children am (ECCE) (1.81 square meters per child)  10 children FDC pm (2.3 square meters per)  A maximum of 14 children am.  A maximum of 10 children pm.
Multipurpose Room	14.24 square meters	2.3 square m = 4 children FDC pm  This room will accommodate the 4 children attending a full day care service from the Preschool room in the afternoon

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(2) As the services proposes to accommodate only children attending the service on a full day care basis. The service had sufficient floor space to accommodate a maximum of 24 children morning and afternoon as per the above graph.

(3) There was adequate space provided for the proposed number of (ECCE) children that will attend each morning.