

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015CC163

**Name of Service** Giggles Childcare Service

**Address of Service:** Curra, Inishannon, Cork. T12 A6DX

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Marie Kerr & Bernie Lynch

<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 type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed change:** Addition of wooden cabin

**Proposed Number of Children:** No Change in Numbers

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Addition of wooden cabin

**Registered change:** Addition of wooden cabin, no increase in number of children from 100.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	3	0	0	7	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection undertaken by:** E. Friel

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:**  
13 Market Square  
Mallow  
Cork. P51 DD5Y

**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, Part-Time, Sessional Service for 100 children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2024

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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>	Giggles Childcare Service is registered as a private early years care and education facility providing a range of services including full day, part-time and sessional services. It accommodates children aged from birth to six years of age. Opening hours are between 7.30 am until 6.30 pm, Monday to Thursday, and 7.30 am until 6.00 pm on Fridays, 50 weeks of the year.
<b>Premises</b>	The service operates from a detached two storey building located in the rural area of Curra, Innishannon, in County Cork. There are six groups within the setting; Toddler A, Toddler B and the Early Montessori which all operate from areas on the ground floor and Montessori One and Montessori Two along with Montessori three, which was not in operation on the day of inspection, are located on the upper floor. The service proposes to relocate the Montessori three children to the purposefully adapted wooden cabin located at the rear of the service.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service employs twenty-four staff, sixteen of whom were working directly with the children on the day of inspection including both registered providers who were covering breaks. In addition, two students were on placement and one adult was based in the kitchen preparing meals.
<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>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers, manager, deputy, named person, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 is met.

(1) (a) The two registered providers are the designated persons in charge. In addition, there is a named manager, deputy and named persons available to deputise.

### 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)

An adequate number of adults were available on the premises on the day of inspection. There were 16 adults, including the two registered providers and the manager who were covering breaks, working directly with 73 children.

Room	Number	Total staff
Toddler A	There were 11 Full Day Care (FDC) children aged from 12 to 18 months	3 Staff 1 Student
Toddler B	There were 11 FDC aged from 18 months to 2 years 6 months	2 Staff 1 Student
Early Montessori	There were 16 FDC aged from 2 years 6 months to 3 years	3 Staff
Montessori 1	There were 15 early years children aged from 3 years to 4 years 6 months and 2 school age children	3 Staff
Montessori 2	There were 18 children aged from 2 years 6 months to 4 years	2 Staff
Montessori 3	No children	
Cabin	No children	

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

#### (1) (a)

The proposed cabin was laid out in clearly defined areas with equipment and resources, which were age and stage appropriate. A wooden sink, washing machine and dolls house provided opportunities for imaginary play and table top activities including puzzles and games were located on two tables in the area. Additional toys and materials, including construction and threading materials for enhancing fine motor skills, were available on fixed shelving on a wall of the cabin. The children will have use of three outdoor play areas, two of which are covered allowing for outdoor play in all weathers. A range of developmentally appropriate equipment was provided in the fully enclosed outdoor areas for practicing gross motor skills of cycling, swinging, climbing and crawling. Sensory materials including sand was available in covered areas and a mud kitchen was available providing opportunities for imaginary play. Additional play equipment was available from two sheds in the outdoor play areas. The perimeter of the outdoor play areas were secured with high metal and wooden fencing, high hedging and metal gates with key pads.

#### (1) (b)

The rest area in the cabin has two mats available and the manager stated additional soft furnishings, including cushions, have been ordered. It is located near shelving where the children can access developmentally appropriate books while they rest or sit quietly. There are eleven cots available for children under two years, six of these are available in the Toddler A dedicated sleep room and five are available in the Toddler B sleep room, located off the Early Montessori area. There is a supply of mats and stackable beds available for children over two years.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 registered providers propose to continue with the current policy of providing all meals and snacks for the children while they are on the premises, with alternative food available, if required. A three-week menu plan was available, and the children will have access to water at all times. A fridge is available in the cabin for storing perishable food.

### 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 main entrance to the cabin is secured internally by a thumb twist lock, preventing unauthorised adults from entering the area.
  - All external doors in the main building are operated with a key pad preventing unauthorised adults from entering the building and unsupervised children from exiting.
  - Appropriated precautions were observed on the low-level windows with a picture of pencils across the window alerting children to the presence of the glass.
  - The windows in the cabin were fitted with window restrictors preventing children from exiting or falling from them.
  - The indoor and outdoor toys and materials appeared to be maintained.
  - Heavy equipment and storage was secured.
  - There were no visible flexes or cables in the cabin.
  - Pedal operated bins were available for the storage of indoor waste.
  - Cleaning agents were stored on a high shelf in the lobby of the sanitary area.
  - Anti-febrile medication was observed to be stored in original containers in locked drawers in the walkway area.
  - The kitchen area was inaccessible by the children.
  - Fire assembly points were visible in the outdoor areas.
  - The perimeter of the outdoor play areas were secured with high metal and wooden fencing, high hedging and metal gates with key pads.
- Infection Control:**
- The temperature of the water at the wash hand basin in the sanitary area in the cabin was thermostatically controlled and was recorded at 28°C.
  - Liquid soap, a hand dryer, and pedal operated bins were available in the sanitary area and in the care area.

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- Wall hooks were available in the lobby of the sanitary area to store personal belongings away from the floor area.

### 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) Certificates were available to evidence that three staff members had First Aid Responder (FAR) training completed. The roster indicated that at least one of the adults was available while the early years children were on the premises.
- (2) (a) (b) The suitably equipped first aid box, located in a cupboard above the fridge, was within reach of the inspector.

### 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 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 was met.
- (1)
- A template is available for the recording of fire drills in the service. The recorded date of the last fire drill was 16/07/2024.
  - Written records were available detailing the number, type and maintenance of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms. Both the fire equipment maintenance certificate and the smoke alarm certificate were dated 25/07/2024.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were located on the wall beside the emergency fire exit 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:

The requirement was met.

A certificate was available to indicate that the service, which includes the cabin, is insured for 120 full day care children. Separate certificates were available for motor insurance for three staff members.

### 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 main facility is a two-storey building that the manager states is of sound and stable structure. The purposefully adapted cabin will cater for the children who are relocating from the Montessori 3 room. It has a lobby area where children can hang their belongings and a single children's toilet and wash hand basin in a room off the main area. The cabin has been recently painted and appears of sound and stable structure.

(b)

The service appeared safe and secure. Entry doors could not be opened in the main building unless by a member of staff from the inside or by the staff member with a code for the door. The main entrance door in the cabin has a thumb twist lock and can only be opened by staff from the inside, preventing unauthorised adults from entering the area.

(c)

The lighting of the proposed cabin was from two central strip ceiling lights which were fitted with safety covers, and natural light was available from the six windows and the emergency fire exit glass doors. The heating in the service was provided from two oil radiators, one located in the room and the other in the lobby area of the toilet. The temperature of the room was recorded as 22°C. The children's toilet in the cabin had both natural light from a window in the toilet and also in the lobby area and from covered lights, one in the toilet and one in the lobby. Natural ventilation was available in the room, toilet and lobby areas.

(d)

The overall appearance of the cabin indicated that the cabin had recently been painted, it was clean and well maintained.

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	<p>(e) The cabin has one child's toilet and a wash hand basin. There is also a main sink in the room. In total on the premises, there are eight children's toilets, (including the cabin), ten children's wash hand basins and three children's nappy changing areas. There are three adult toilets, including the plumbed portacabin toilet, and associated wash hand basins for use by the adults. The water is sourced from the public water supply and the waste is removed by the public sewage system. In conclusion, there is an adequate number of toilets, nappy changing stations and wash hand basins for the 100 children and the twenty-three adults.</p>
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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.
- (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).

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate floor space was provided in the service for the work, play and movement of the children attending.</p> <p>(2) The registered provider had ensured that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 for sessional and full day care services had been met.</p>																				
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Age</th> <th>Numbers</th> <th>Space</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cabin</td> <td>3 years – 5 years</td> <td>11 sessional reducing to 9 for full day care.</td> <td>21.76 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toddler A</td> <td>12 months – 18 months</td> <td></td> <td>54 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toddler B</td> <td>18 months – 2 year 6 months</td> <td></td> <td>22 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Early Montessori</td> <td>2 years 6 months – 3 years</td> <td></td> <td>49 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Age	Numbers	Space	Cabin	3 years – 5 years	11 sessional reducing to 9 for full day care.	21.76 m <sup>2</sup>	Toddler A	12 months – 18 months		54 m <sup>2</sup>	Toddler B	18 months – 2 year 6 months		22 m <sup>2</sup>	Early Montessori	2 years 6 months – 3 years		49 m <sup>2</sup>
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	Montessori 1	3 years – 4 years 6 months	45 m <sup>2</sup>
	Montessori 2	2 years 6 months – 4 years	67 m <sup>2</sup>
	Montessori 3		27 m <sup>2</sup>
<p>(4) The minimum space requirement for children aged three years or over attending a full day care service is 2.3 m<sup>2</sup> or 1.818 m<sup>2</sup> for sessional services. In conclusion, there is adequate space in the cabin for the proposed 11 sessional children reducing to 9 full day care children with a floor measurement of 21.76 m<sup>2</sup>.</p>			