

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015CC388

Name of Service Step One Pre-School (Cailini)

Address of Service: Blackrock National Hurling Club, Church Road
Blackrock, Cork, T12 E33C

Email Address: steponepreschoolupdates@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms Aideen Murphy

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

Proposed change: The service proposes to operate from a different premises. The service proposes to carry out an afternoon sessional service in addition to a morning service.

Proposed Number of Children: 22 per session

Recommended Change Following Inspection: All requirements were met

Registered change: Change in Service Address from Scoil Barra Buachailli agus Cailini, Beaumont, Blackrock, Cork, Co. Cork, T12EK77 to Blackrock National Hurling Club, Church Road, Blackrock, Cork, T12 E33C
Addition of an afternoon session from 12:15 – 15:15

Date of Inspection:	2	5	0	9	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: V. McCarthy

Title: Early Years Inspector

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

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	27 th September 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).

Description of Service	Step One Pre-School (Cailíní) is registered as a sessional service that provides care to children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. The service is currently registered to carry out morning sessions and proposes to operate both morning and afternoon sessional services between the hours of 8.45am to 11.45am and 12.15 pm to 3.15pm.
Premises	The proposed care room to be used by the service is situated on the first floor at Blackrock National Hurling Club which is a detached 2 storey building located in a residential urban setting. The care room has been purposely adapted as a childcare setting with toilet facilities positioned off a corridor alongside the room. There is a kitchen/office section in the care room that is secured by a barrier and is kept only for adult's use.
Staffing	It is proposed that 2 adults with childcare qualifications will be on duty daily caring for up to 22 early years children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The registered provider will not be service based.
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 administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge and deputy who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service has a record of the named person in charge and named adult who can deputise as required. The record is displayed on the entrance door to the care room.

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 the adult child ratios as per schedule 6 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 will be adhered to. The person in charge informed the inspector that a minimum of 2 adults will be on the premises caring for up to 22 early years children.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There is a selection of play materials and play equipment available that are all maintained in good condition. The materials and equipment are arranged and set up in varied interest areas for the children.

(b) There are adequate rest facilities consisting of mats, cushions, and child sized armchairs available for children to rest on as they choose during the day.

(2)(b) There is a secured outdoor play area provided on the grounds of the hurling club that is laid out with astroturf grass and provided with secured fencing, gates, and walls.

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It is proposed that this area will be solely for use by the early years children during the hours of service operation.

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 food available for the children’s snacks will be provided by the children’s respective parents and guardians. A supply of appropriate crockery and cutlery is available for children’s use at meal and snack breaks. A fridge is available in the care room to store the children’s perishable food. A jug of filtered water, a supply of cups and the children’s individual water bottles will be positioned on low shelving in the care room so that a child may easily access a drink of water if he/she is thirsty.

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 of the service is secured to prevent the unauthorised entry of a person or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The stairwell is provided with handrails to assist children accessing the stairs.
- The windows in the proposed room have high opening windows that can be opened easily to ventilate the room.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water for safe hand washing is provided at the 2 wash hand basins for children’s use and the 1 was hand basin for adult use. The water temperature was recorded at 36.38°C during the inspection. Liquid soap, paper towels and pedal bins with lids are provided in the toilet areas.
- The cleaning agents are stored in a secured press out of children’s reach.
- The first aid box is stored on a high wall rack out of children’s reach.
- A fridge is available in the proposed care room to store perishable foods for the children’s mid-morning snack break.
- The 2 radiators in the proposed care room are provided with thermostats to reduce the risk of a child sustaining a contact burn injury.
- The play materials, books and child sized furniture set up in the proposed care room are noted to be clean, functioning and in good condition.
- The proposed outdoor play area is surrounded by high walls, fences and secured gates.

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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) A copy of up to date First Aid Response (FAR) certificate is available on file in respect of each of the 2 adults.
- (2)(a)(b) There is a first aid box available at all times in the service and it is stored on a high wall rack out of the children's reach.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1)(a) The requirement is met in relation to the provision of a form for the recording of monthly fire drills.
- (b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment is available on file. Records are available to demonstrate that the wired smoke alarm was serviced on 24 August 2023 and the fire equipment was serviced on 02 August 2023.
- (4) Notices of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the care room and throughout the premises.
- The service has a designated assembly point in the event of a fire positioned to the front of the premises and the assembly point is clearly identified with signage.

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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 has been met.

Records regarding insurance cover for 22 early years children attending a sessional service each morning and afternoon are available on file. The records referred to details regarding the expiry date, public liability, outings, and fire cover.

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) The 2-storey detached Hurling Club building has no mould or cracks visible on the walls, ceilings or floors during the inspection. The proposed care room is situated on the first floor and is decorated and set up pleasingly for children’s use.
- (b) The care room is secured to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the leaving of an unsupervised child. The outdoor play area is secured by high walls, fences, and secured gates. The first aid box is stored out of children’s reach.
- (c) The proposed care room is provided with natural light by means of 9 windows. Adequate ceiling lighting is provided in the form of 8 ceiling lights and 2 pendant lights. The premise is supplied with oil heating and the air room temperature was recorded at 18.2°C on the day of the inspection. Adequate ventilation is provided by means of high opening windows in the proposed care room. The children’s and adult’s toilet areas are each provided with mechanical ventilation.
- (d) Cleaning schedules are available, and all the play materials, equipment and furniture are noted to be clean and in good condition.
- (e) There are 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins for children’s use on the premises. There is 1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin available for the adult’s use. There are an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins available on the premises for up to 22 children at any one time. The service is serviced by a public water and sewage system.

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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) Adequate floor space is available in the care room for the work, play and movement of the proposed 22 early years children attending each morning and afternoon session.

(3) The proposed room was measured at 53 square metres during the inspection. It is proposed in the application form submitted by the registered provider that the service proposes to cater for up to 22 early years children attending sessional service both in the morning and afternoon.