

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015CC388

Name of Service Muin Preschool – The Rockies

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

Email Address: muinpreschool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Kate Gaffney & Clodagh Barrett

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: This service proposes to change from a sessional service to a part-time service. The proposed hours of operation are from 09.00am to 14:00pm.

Proposed Number of Children: 22 children in sessional service and 16 children for part-time care.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: All requirements were met.

Registered change: Change in service type from Sessional to Sessional, Part Time For 22 children sessional only and 16 Children Part Time
Change in Hours of Operation from 08:45 -11:45 & 12:15 – 15:15 to 09:00 – 14:00

Date of Inspection:	2	4	1	0	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: N O'Donoghue

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 13 Market Square,
Mallow, Co Cork, P51 DD5Y

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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 with 22 Children (Maximum 16 Part Time)
Date of Registration	12th November 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	Muin Preschool 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 and afternoons sessions and to operate between the hours of 8.45am to 11.45am and 12.15 pm to 3.15pm. The service proposes to offer part-time care from the hours of 9.00am to 2.00pm.
Premises	The 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 and up to 16 children attending part-time care. The registered provider will not be service based, however will be available for relief when required.
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(s) wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children 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 registered provider informed the inspector that a minimum of 2 adults will be on the premises caring for up to 22 early years children in the sessional service and a minimum of 2 adults will be available for up to 16 children attending the part-time session. The registered provider also informed the inspector, they will be available to assist when required.

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 wide variety of play materials and play equipment available that are all maintained in good condition. The materials and equipment are arranged and set up in identified interest areas around the room for the children. These areas include construction corner, kitchen area, creativity area, cosy corner.

(b) There are adequate rest facilities consisting of mats, cushions, and blankets available for children to rest on as they choose during the day. The registered provider informed the inspector there are three floor mats available for children in the event a child

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requires sleep. The service will provide linen and blankets. The proposed designated sleep area allows for children to rest and also allow for children to continue to play.

(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.

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.
Parents/Guardians will provide the children’s snacks and meals throughout the day. A supply of appropriate crockery and cutlery is available for children’s use at meal and snack breaks. There is a fridge available in the care room to store the children’s perishable food. A water station is available for use by children which includes a jug of water, a supply of cups. The children’s individual water bottles will be available so that a child may easily access a drink of water if required.

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 exit of an unsupervised child.
- The stairwell is provided with handrails to assist children accessing the stairs.
- The windows in the care room have can be easily opened to ventilate the room.
- There are no low laying cables accessible by children in the room.
- The water is thermostatically controlled and is safe for hand washing. The temperatures recorded on day of inspection ranged from 16.1°C to 42.5°C. The registered provider is aware of the max temperature suitable for hand washing and will continue to monitor the temperatures of the water. the 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 shelf out of children’s reach and easily identifiable by staff in the room.
- A fridge is available in the care room to store the children’s perishable foods.
- The play materials, books and furniture set up in the care room are observed to be in good condition and clean.
- 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 two of the adults. This included the registered provider.

(2)(a)(b) There is a first aid box available at all times in the service and it is stored on a high shelf in the care room 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) Monthly fire drills are recorded and displayed in the care room. The last monthly fire drill was completed on 20 October 2025.
- (b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment is available on file. Records are available for the servicing of the smoke alarm on 22 September 2025, and the fire equipment was serviced on 22 September 2025.

(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.
An insurance quotation was available for cover for 22 early years children attending a sessional service and cover for 16 children attending part-time care. All required details were available on the quotation, including public liability, fire and theft, and building insurance.

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 visible cracks or observable defects during the inspection.
(b) The care room is secured to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the exit of an unsupervised child. The outdoor play area is secured by high walls, fences, and secured gates.
(c) The care room is provided with natural light through windows. Adequate lighting is available from the ceiling lights. The premise is supplied with oil heating and the air room temperature was recorded at 18.7°C on the day of the inspection. 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 throughout the room and have been completed by staff. The play materials, equipment and furniture are observed to be clean and maintained in good condition.
(e) The children’s sanitary facilities consist of two toilets and two wash hand basins down the corridor from the care room. The adult sanitary facility consist of one toilet and one wash hand basin. 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.
- (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) Adequate floor space is available in the care room for the work, play and movement of the 22 early years children attending sessional care and the proposed 16 children attending part-time care.

(2) The proposed room was measured at 53.7m² during the inspection. It is proposed by the registered provider that the service will cater up to 16 early years children attending part-time care.

(4) (a) (b) The available floor space will allow the proposed number of children to have a minimum of 1.818 m² of clear floor space per child during sessional service, and have a minimum of 2.35 m² for each child aged 2-3 years old, and a minimum of 2.3m² for each child aged 3-6 years old during part time care.