

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015CC393

Name of Service Stickyfingers Childcare

Address of Service: Willowtree House, Ballinvredig, Ballinspittle, Cork, P17
HX53

Email Address: ovshorten@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Olwyn Shorten

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

Proposed change:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in service name from Stickyfingers Childcare to Willowtree Childcare Ltd. Change in legal company name from Stickyfingers Childcare to Willowtree Childcare Ltd. Change in Number of Staff from 6 to 10 staff
Proposed Number of Children:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change from 44 to 66 children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in service name from Stickyfingers Childcare to Willowtree Childcare Ltd Change in legal company name from Stickyfingers Childcare to Willowtree Childcare Ltd Change in Number of Staff from 6 to 10 staff Change from 44 to 66 children
Registered change:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in service name from Stickyfingers Childcare to Willowtree Childcare Ltd

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in legal company name from Stickyfingers Childcare to Willowtree Childcare Ltd • Change in Number of Staff from 6 to 10 staff • Change from 44 to 66 children
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Date of Inspection:	1	1	0	3	2	0	2	6
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Inspection undertaken by:	J. Russell & J. Dennehy
Title:	Inspection Registration Managers

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork, T23X440
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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 Full Day, Part Time & Sessional Service with 66 children
Date of Registration	24th March 2026

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	Stickyfingers Childcare is a privately owned full daycare service that also provides sessional and part time care. It is registered to cater for children aged 0 to 6 years. It is currently offering care to children aged 1 to 6 years old. This includes children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, which is accommodated over 38 weeks of
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	<p>the year. The registered daily opening hours are from 07.00am to 6.00pm. The service is located next to the registered providers private residence in the rural area of Ballinspittle, near Kinsale in Co Cork. The registered provider also provides school age care.</p>
Premises	<p>The main prefabricated building consists of three care rooms, these are currently operating as the Toddler, ECCE 1A and ECCE 1B rooms. There are also adjacent sanitary facilities, a reception/breakout room and a sleep room in this building. This building also includes sheltered play areas, with sand play and dress up areas, storage areas and sanitary facilities. A fourth care room, known as ECCE2/Under the Sky room is provided from a wooden cabin located in the outdoor area with adjoining sanitary facilities. There are two outdoor play spaces, including one large play area.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are currently 10 staff attached to the service who are employed to work directly with the children, this includes the registered provider.</p>
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	<p>The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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 registered provider is the person in charge of operating the early years service.

Two deputies have also been appointed.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider will ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working with the children directly in the service.

(8) (a) The registered provider will ensure that there are two staff members on the premises at all times while the service is operating.

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)

- The children have access to a variety of age-appropriate equipment and play materials that are accessible to them on open low level shelving units in the care rooms.
- In addition, there was a range of toys and play materials stored away, which the registered provider stated are rotated in line with the children’s emerging interests.
- The care room was furnished with a sufficient quantity of child sized tables and chairs. Two highchairs were available and appropriately stored in the toddler room.
- The care rooms were laid out with a variety of interest areas. There was a range of play materials and equipment that included home areas with associated utensils, book areas, sensory play equipment, small world play, and block play for the proposed age range of the children.
- The children have access to 2 outdoor play areas including one area to the front of the service, and a large area around the ECCE 2/Under the sky cabin. In addition, there is a large, sheltered play area adjoining the main prefab building.
- There were various sheds used for storage of the outdoor play items in the large outdoor area.

	<p>(b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4 care rooms each had a designated rest areas with cushions, a rug on the floor and soft seating. • There were 3 cots with waterproof mattresses and 10 stackable beds, with linen provided available in the service. Each child is provided with their own bed linen. • Provision was available via an app to record physical checks on each child while asleep. • The registered provider was aware that a minimum of 50 cm space was required between each cot and bed while in use by a sleeping child. • The registered provider was aware that cots and beds were required to be sufficiently kept away from and hazards posed by items such as curtains, windows, or radiators. • The registered provider was aware that car seats, bean bags, bouncers, buggies, travel cots were prohibited for sleep by children while in the service. <p>(2)(b) The children have access to 2 fully enclosed and secured outdoor play areas, plus a large, sheltered play area.</p>
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service	
Regulation 22 – Food and Drink	
<i>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.</i>	
Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>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/guardians. Food for the children’s meals and snacks will be provided by parents/guardians. This includes the provision of one hot meal. If alternative or additional snacks are required, a supply of fruit and non-perishable foods are accessible for the children. Three fridges are accessible for the storage of perishable foods. Five microwaves are available for reheating of food.</p>

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Children are required to bring in their own drinking water, but should a child become thirsty during the day, they will have access to bottled 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 was partially met.

Internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas.

External doors were appropriately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised.

Emergency exit/fire doors were unobstructed.

The openable windows were located at a height out of the reach of the children.

All window cords were secured and made safe.

All highchairs in current use were in good condition and fitted with safety harnesses.

All toys and play equipment observed were in good condition, free from pinch and crush points, exposed bolts or sharp edges.

Baby walkers are prohibited in the service.

Any heavy equipment or furniture that may tip over was observed to be fully anchored.

Electrical cables observed were secured to the wall or stored out of reach of children.

All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children in a locked cupboard in the lobby area.

There was suitable storage facilities for staff belongings.

All drawers and cupboards containing hazardous objects were suitable secured.

Kettles and hazardous kitchen equipment were stored inaccessible to children in the service.

Emergency lighting and signage was present throughout the service. There was a designated fire assemble point out to the front of the garage on the premises.

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Requirement not met:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The green metal storage shed in the large outdoor area was not locked and was accessible to the children. This shed had broken floorboards and posed a risk to the children should they enter it. A rainwater harvest container was available for use by the children in the large outdoor area. Harvested rainwater is not considered safe for direct handling for water play activities due to potential contamination by harmful organisms.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The registered provider had a high-level metal sliding bolt installed on the shed door and will ensure children cannot access this shed. The rainwater harvest container was removed from the service.
Summary Comment:	The requirement for this regulation has been met.

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:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The certifications available evidenced that 2 staff members had up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training. (a) The registered provider has ensured that each care room is equipped with a suitably stocked first aid box provided for the children in the service. (b) Each first aid box was easily accessible to staff should it be needed by the children at all times, these were stored out of the reach of the children.
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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.

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 in April 2025 and the wired smoke alarm was tested on 15 September 2025.

(4) A notice, outlining the steps to be taken in the event of a fire, is displayed. Clear signage for the designated fire assembly point is in place.

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 submitted to the Registration Team prior to the 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 providers 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 to the service is secured with a metal gate and fence. The outdoor play area is enclosed by high-level fencing. This prevents a child from leaving the service unsupervised or unauthorised persons gaining access.
- (c)
 - In the care room, adequate lighting is ensured through a combination of fluorescent lighting and windows, which allow for natural sunlight.
 - Wall mounted electric storage heaters were available throughout the service.
 - 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 six toilets and six hand wash basins available to be used by the children adjacent to the sanitary facilities.
 - There are three nappy changes units and three hand wash basins available.
 - There is one adult toilet located within the childcare premises and there are four other adults toilets available in the service providers private residence for use by adults in the service if required.

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- Within the care/breakout rooms there were six additional adult sinks and five additional children's sinks.

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 sessional pre-school service, and*
 - 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) Within the care rooms, adequate space is available to accommodate the children's play and exploration.

(2) Sufficient clear floor space is provided, as per the following recorded room measurements and the proposed numbers and age ranges of children:

- Toddler Room: 38.16m², as proposed 10 children (full day care) aged 1 to 2 years can be accommodated.
- ECCE 1A: 51.49m², as proposed 18 children (full day care) aged 2 to 3 years can be accommodated.

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- ECCE 1B: 49.95m², as proposed 19 children (full day care) aged 2 to 3 years can be accommodated.
- ECCE 2 (Under the Sky): 35.43m², 20 children have been proposed for the provision of sessional care, the room allows for 19 children to be accommodated.
- Lobby/Breakout Room: 23.84m².

(4)(a) & (b)

The registered provider will cater for children attending the sessional service and the part time/full day care service. The ECCE 1A, ECCE 1B and ECCE 2 rooms each allow for the children attending the sessional service, to have a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space during this time.