

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015CC401

**Name of Service:** Teach na nÓige

**Address of Service:** Castleheights, Liscarroll, Co Cork.

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Mr Brian Downes

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" 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 two care rooms and increase in capacity to 81 pre-school children

**Proposed Number of Children:** 81

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** 80

**Registered change:** Change in number of children from 55 to 80  
Change in number of adults from 14 to 22

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	2	0	8	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection undertaken by:** F Collins

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** 13 Market Square  
Mallow,  
Co Cork.

**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 Care, Part time and Sessional service for 80 children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	26 <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>	<p>Teach na nÓige, is a purpose-built childcare facility in Liscarroll, North Cork. The service offers full day care, part- time day care and a sessional service. The service accommodates the Early Childhood Care and Education programme between 09.00 and 12.00 daily.</p> <p>The centre is a not-for-profit community service and operates between the hours of 07.00-18.00 hours, Monday –Friday.</p> <p>The service caters for children aged six months to six years.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The premises is a purpose-built childcare facility that has two buildings, the existing building is being redeveloped to accommodate three care rooms and the new building has two care rooms bringing the service in total to five childcare rooms which will cater for children aged 0-6 years and also provide School aged care. There are three sleep rooms, kitchen facilities and both adult and children’s toilets and nappy changing facilities available. The service has three dedicated outdoor areas, one for the younger children, one for the older children and a newly developed outdoor area for the children being cared for in the new building.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The current staffing proposal is for 13 staff to work directly with the children and additional staff will manage the service.</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 following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p>

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	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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, persons in charge, 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.

(1)(a) The registered provider has named a person in charge and there is also a deputy person in charge available. A third person has been named to deputise in the event the person in charge and the deputy are not on the premises.

### 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)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

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(1) It is proposed to have 13 staff caring for the proposed number of preschool children who will attend the service at any one time. The children will be aged between 6 months to 6 years. Management staff are also 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.
- (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 or
  - (b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

#### Requirement met:

The requirements have been met.

(1)(a) There are 5 preschool playrooms within the service. Each playroom is well equipped with play materials and equipment.

The first proposed new playroom (Room 1, Sunflower room) will accommodate children age 2½ to 5 years. This room has areas of interest developed and all play equipment is stored at a low level readily accessible to children.

The second new care room (Room 2, the Bluebell room) will accommodate children aged 2 ½ to 5 years and facilitate the sessional service. Before and after the sessional service this care room will accommodate the younger school aged children from junior infants to first class.

Room 3, the baby room (Daisy room) is to be reopened and has access to equipment suitable for children and for their need to crawl and pull to stand.

Room 4, the wobbler room (Daffodil room) has access to equipment suitable for this age group and has suitable seating to ensure the children do not fall off the chairs, there was adequate soft matting and access to alternative areas to play.

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	<p>Room 5: The Buttercup room, this full day care room, with access equipment suitable for children aged 2-3 years and access to comfortable areas within the room.</p> <p>(b) The service has access to three sleep rooms, one between the baby and wobbler rooms, one at the end of the corridor for the children attending the wobbler room and a third inside the wobbler sleep room for the children attending the toddler room. Sleep facilities for the children who may require rest and sleep in the new care rooms will be provided with sleep mats set up in the care room. A total of 10 standard cots, six stackable beds and four floor mats were available for the children in the service to sleep. Each care room has a soft and comfortable area available to the children to rest and relax as needed.</p> <p>(3)(a) Three fully enclosed outdoor areas are available, one to the rear of the new building, one to the side for the younger babies and wobblers and one to the side where the toddlers are being cared for.</p>
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### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirements have been met.</p> <p>The service is providing breakfast, dinner and supper with menus in place and same being developed with a new catering company.</p> <p>Parents/guardians will be providing both snacks.</p> <p>Water is accessible and freely available to the children in all care rooms.</p> <p>The service has a kitchen onsite and will be used to reheat as required the main meal, and to prepare breakfast and supper.</p>
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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been partially met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The emergency exit doors are unobstructed in both buildings.</li> <li>• Safe storage is provided for the children’s belongings with hooks available for each child.</li> <li>• Storage for cleaning materials and equipment is provided in a secure area with the presses under the sinks secured with child proof locking systems in both new care rooms.</li> <li>• The kitchen is inaccessible to children and a fridge is provided in all care rooms for the storage of perishable food.</li> <li>• All blind cords are secured.</li> </ul>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to adequate personal protective equipment was not available at all nappy changing units, plastic aprons were not easily accessible.</li> <li>2. Some of the soft matting in the outdoor areas of the original building are splitting and lifting posing a risk of a trip hazard to staff and children.</li> <li>3. One of the windows to the side of the Bluebell room was not secured by a window restrictor, this window was openable to an area not secured by fencing should a child climb out through the window.</li> <li>4. A loose electric cable was noted to be not secured on the lava lamp in the sensory room in the Sunflower room.</li> <li>5. The swing system in the sensory room was not suitable due to its proximity to the wall, where children when using the swing have the potential risk of hitting the wall.</li> </ol>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Personal protective equipment has been made available at all nappy changing areas.</li> <li>2. The soft matting in the outdoor areas has been remedied with sand used to fill the gaps while awaiting a long-term solution.</li> <li>3. The window in the Bluebell room has been fitted with a window restrictor.</li> </ol>

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	<p>4. The loose cable in the sensory room of the Sunflower room has been secured.</p> <p>5. The swing in the sensory room has been removed.</p>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirements for this Regulation have 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—
- (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) Six staff have current first aid certification in first aid responder (FAR).

(2)(a) (b) Adequate fully equipped first aid boxes are available, in each building. The first aid boxes are readily identifiable and accessible to staff.

### 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) A record is available to record monthly fire drills that will take place in the service.

(b) The commissioning of the firefighting equipment in the new building was recorded as completed in June 2024.

The commissioning of the fire alarm system was recorded as having been completed on 14.02.2204.

(4) A fire assembly point is identified in the outdoor area. Notices of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in each room of the service.

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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Requirement not met:

This requirement has not been met for the opening of the service with additional children.

The current insurance certificate indicates cover for 90 children to attend the service, this however includes the proposed number of pre-school children at any one time and also the school aged service which caters for up to 17 children and also the children on the community playground. The current insurance expires on 31.08.2024

#### Response from Provider:

The insurance for the service has been updated to cater for 122 children in attendance. This insurance is out of date on 31/08/2024.

#### Summary Comment:

The requirements for this regulation have been met.

### 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 partially met.

(a) There are two buildings at the service, and each appeared to be well maintained.

(b) The entrance doors and gates to the original building are secured with a keypad access.

(c) Natural lighting is provided with large windows in each of the five care rooms, and this is supplemented with electric fluorescent lights which are fully encased with protective covers.

The windows in each room are openable to provide natural ventilation.

Mechanical ventilation is provided in the sanitary accommodation between the baby and wobbler rooms and in the new nappy changing facility in the new building. The

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	<p>nappy changing units on the main corridor and in the Buttercup room are ventilated through openable windows.</p> <p>The main building is heated via an oil-fired central heating system with under floor heating. The new building is heated via underfloor heating powered by an air to water system. The room temperature of the new care rooms were recorded at, the Bluebell room was recorded at 19.4°C and the Sunflower room was recorded at 21.6°C ensuring the comfort of the children in attendance.</p> <p>(d) The three existing rooms in the service are well maintained and clean throughout. The new rooms are in good condition and in good repair.</p> <p>(e) Sufficient toilets are available for the children with eight toilets available, two in the Sunflower, two in the Bluebell and two in the Buttercup rooms. Two additional children's toilets are available on the main corridor should they be required.</p> <p>Nappy changing facilities include one unit in the new building, two in the designated space between the baby and wobblers rooms, one on the main corridor and one in the Buttercups room. There are five adult toilets throughout the buildings, one in the new building and four in the existing building.</p>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p>(b) The entrance to the new building is easily openable from both sides and no way of securing the doors to prevent children leaving unsupervised or prevent unauthorised access into the building.</p> <p>(e) There are insufficient wash hand basins available to the children in the new building, both rooms have two toilets for the proposed 22 children in attendance in each room with access to one wash hand basin in each room when two wash hand basins are required.</p>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<p>(b) The entrance to the new building has been fitted with an electromagnetic locking system to ensure the safety of the children.</p> <p>(e) The toilet facilities in the new building have been added to with an additional sink added in each room, two sinks are now available in each room.</p>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	<p>The requirements for this regulation have been met.</p>

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### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

*(1) 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.*

#### Requirement met:

(2) The requirement has not been met.

Room 1: Sunflower room (New building) space available 50.38SqM. This space will accommodate the 22 proposed to attend on a sessional and full day care basis aged between 2 ½ and 5 years.

Room 2: Bluebell room (New Building) space available 50.64SqM. This space will accommodate the 22 proposed to attend on a sessional basis aged between 2 ½ and 5 years.

Room 3: Baby room (Daisy room) (Existing building) space available 18.32 SqM. This space will allow for the care of five children aged 0-1 year.

Room 4: The Daffodil Room (Wobblers, existing building) space available 29.66 SqM. This room will allow for the care of 10 children aged 1-2 years.

Each of the four rooms as listed above can cater for the proposed numbers of children to attend.

#### Requirement not met:

Room 5: Buttercups room (Toddlers, existing building) space available 50.44 SqM, this space does not allow for the care of 22 children proposed to attend for full day care provision. This space will allow for the care of 21 children aged as proposed between the ages of 2-3 years. This room size was reduced due to the addition of a nappy changing room from previous inspections.

#### Response from Provider:

The registered provider has reduced the maximum numbers of children to be cared for in the Buttercups room to 21 at any one time.

#### Summary Comment:

The requirements for this Regulation have been met.