

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015CC440

**Name of Service** McShortall Childcare Ltd.

**Address of Service:** Woodfield, Station Road, Blarney, Co Cork, T23 YXK2

**Email Address:** mmcshortall.tlc@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Mary McShortall

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" 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:** Change in the number of children that can be accommodated.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 65

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** The number of children that can be accommodated at any one time has increased from 43 to 65

**Registered change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 43 to 65

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	2	1	1	2	0	2	3
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**Inspection undertaken by:** Ms. M. O'Reilly

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus,  
Gurrabraher, Cork, T23X440

**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 Service for 65 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> December 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	McShortall Childcare Ltd is a registered privately owned early years' service in operation since 2007. This service provides education and care to children from 0 to 6 years offering a choice of sessional, part time or full day care service and children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The current opening hours are from 7:30am to 6pm each day Monday to Friday.
<b>Premises</b>	McShortall Childcare Ltd operates from a single storey purpose-built childcare facility located in a suburban estate in the outskirts of Blarney village in Co Cork. There are five playrooms in operation: Baby, Wobbler, Toddler, Playschool and Preschool Rooms. There is a designated outdoor play area to the rear side of the building. There is one designated separate sleep room, a staff room, an administration office, and a catering kitchen. The premise has a parking area to the side of the property.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service has twenty adults employed this includes the registered provider, a cook, a cleaner and an administrator. The staff working directly with the children will hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.
<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 provider/ person in charge, deputy/administrator, 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:**

(1)(a) The service has designated persons in charge and named persons who are able to deputise as required.

### 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) The service was in operation when the fit for purpose inspection was carried out.

Baby room

There were 3 children One child was aged less than 12 months old, and 2 children were aged between 12 and 24 months with 1 adult in attendance. This room is used as a playroom and a sleep room for children under two years. There were three fixed standard cots present in the room.

Wobbler Room

There were 6 children present at time of inspection. The children were aged between 12 and 24 months with 2 adults in attendance. The Baby and Wobbler Rooms are located beside each other with a safety gate located at the doorway linking the two rooms. The staff work together in the care of the children in attendance in both rooms.

Toddler room.

There were 11 children in attendance with one child under 2 years and 10 children aged between 2 and 3 years with 2 adults in attendance.

Playschool Room

There were 20 children in attendance aged between 2 years and 6 months to 3 years plus with 3 adults in attendance.

Preschool Room

There were 8 children aged 3 years plus with 2 adults in attendance.

### 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—

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*(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.*

*(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*

<p><b>Requirement met:</b></p>	<p>The requirement has been partially met.</p> <p>(1)(a) There are low shelves provided in the playrooms that are accessible to the children. The shelves are stocked with a large selection of activities, equipment and play materials that are all functioning and maintained in good condition.</p> <p>For outdoor play it is proposed that the children will have access to the outdoor play area that already exists that has an all-weather surface. There are a number of covered areas in the outdoor play area.</p> <p>(b)The Baby Room has three standard cots with safety mattress located in the Baby Playroom. The Toddler Room has a designated separate sleep room which was furnished with six standard cots with safety mattresses. There were an adequate number of cots with safety mattresses available for the number of children under two years that required a sleep.</p> <p>There were a sufficient number of stacking beds available with designated suitable bed linen for each child over 2 years who wanted a sleep while attending the service. Each playroom had a rest area/soft seating area for the children to rest and relax or a place to opt out of activities while attending the service.</p> <p>(2)(a), (3)(a) The children have access to an outdoor play area located within the grounds of the facility. The outdoor play area will be adequately secured when the children are playing outdoors.</p> <p>(3)(b) Not applicable as the children have access to an outdoor play area on the grounds of the facility.</p>
<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p>(1)(b)</p> <p>It was observed that four of the safety mattresses were not the correct size for the cots. The four mattresses were too small and there were gaps-between the mattress and the side of the cots that posed a risk to the sleeping child.</p>
<p><b>Response from the provider</b></p>	<p>(1)(b)</p> <p>In the written response the registered provider /person in charge and deputy have stated the following:</p> <p>Two new cots and two new safety mattresses have been purchased. Two of the existing mattresses are a correct fit for the two new cots. Two new mattresses were purchased which are the correct fit for two existing cots.</p> <p>Photographic evidence of the receipt of purchases was forwarded to the Early Years Inspector.</p>

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Summary Comment:</b>	Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 20(1)(b) of the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.
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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 requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The food is provided by the service for the children attending part time and full day care service. There is a catering kitchen and a cook employed by the service.</li> <li>• There was a menu available.</li> <li>• There was adequate refrigeration present in the service for the storage of perishable foods provided by the parents/guardians for the children in the playschool and preschool rooms.</li> <li>• The children were provided with freshly cut fruit that is raspberries and strawberries with water to drink at the mid-morning snack. The parents and guardians provided the food and drink for the mid-morning snack for the children attending the sessional service which was observed to be adequate and nutritious.</li> </ul>
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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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

#### General Safety:

- The main entrance door to the service was adequately secured to reduce the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premise or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- All toys and play equipment in the proposed playroom are safe and in good condition.
- The openable windows in the playrooms and toilet facilities are at a high level and inaccessible to children.
- The cleaning equipment, cleaning chemicals and materials will be stored out of children’s reach in the service
- There was no evidence of loose and accessible cables to the children in the playrooms
- Two adults held certified, up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) A staff member will be available to the children at all times to offer first aid if necessary.

- The three first aid boxes in the service are stored in areas out of children’s reach.

- The emergency fire exit doors were unobstructed at time of inspection.

- Safe storage is provided for the children’s belongings while in the service

#### Infection Control:

- The cleaning template schedules were available for inspection and demonstrated the service has daily specific cleaning records.

- There was hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available at all wash hand basins in both the adult and children’s toilets and in the playrooms that had wash hand basins.

This ensured the children and staff could wash their hands as required.

The playrooms were well ventilated through openable windows. The adults and children’s toilets and nappy changing facilities were mainly ventilated with mechanical ventilation systems.

- All rubbish was disposed of in pedal operated lidded bins.

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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) There was written evidence that three of the staff in the service held certified, up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificates.

(2) (a)(b)

The first aid box was stored out of children’s reach. The first aid boxes were adequately stocked and readily accessible by 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) The requirement is met in relation to the provision of a form for recording monthly fire drills. The last fire drill took place on the 15th November 2023

(b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment and for the wired smoke alarm is available on file. The fire alarm was last serviced on the 09/03/23. The fire extinguishers were last serviced on the 25/05/23.

(4) The service has two designated assembly point in the event of a fire. A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was on display.

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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 services' insurance certificate was available on the premises and demonstrated that the service was adequately insured. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of children covered which was 90, the start date, which was 28 March 2023, the end date, which was 27 March 2024 and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft 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 partially met.

The service is located in a purpose-built facility. It is proposed that the service will cater for children from 0 to 6 years, operating a full day care service with a maximum of 65 children and 20 staff.

(a) No mould or cracks are visible.

(b) The entrance door to the early years' service is adequately secured to prevent access by an unauthorised adult.

(c) There are a number of openable windows at adult height in the proposed playrooms. Mainly mechanical ventilation in the adult and children's toilet and nappy changing facilities.

There are an adequate number of fluorescent lights fitted with covers in the proposed playrooms and toilet facilities.

The air temperature in the playrooms ranged from 19°C to 21°C and toilet area air temperatures were recorded at 19°C during the inspection.

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	<p>(d) Cleaning schedule templates are available, and all the play materials were in good condition.</p> <p>(e) There are four designated toilets and wash hand basins provided for the proposed children that will be in attendance. There are two nappy changing facilities. There are two designated adult toilets and wash hand basin available for use by the adults.</p> <p>The premise is serviced by a public sewage system and the water source is from a public supply.</p>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p>(e) There were an insufficient number of wash hand basins available for the number of children that are proposed to require nappy changing and toilet trained. The ratio is one wash hand basin for every eleven children that require nappy changing. The ratio is one wash hand basin for every 11 children that are potty trained. Currently there is four wash hand basins when six wash hand basins are required. A seventh wash hand basin is recommended from a location perspective of where wash hand basins are required in the toilet and nappy changing facilities in the service. There is currently one wash hand basin for the 13 children that require nappy changing in the Baby and Wobbler Room and a second wash hand basin is recommended in this location as the wash hand basins in the main children's toilet and nappy changing facilities is a distance away from these rooms.</p>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<p>In the written response the registered provider /person in charge and deputy have stated the following:</p> <p>(e) Three new wash hand basins have been installed bringing the total number of wash hand basins to seven in the toilet and nappy changing facilities in the service. There is now, an adequate number of wash hand basins in the service.</p> <p>Photographic evidence of the new wash hand basins was forwarded to the Early Years Inspector and deemed satisfactory.</p>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	<p>Correspondence forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate was examined and deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 29(e) of the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.</p>

**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.*
- (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), (2)

Baby Room measured 17.01 square meters. Adequate floor space is available in the proposed playroom for the work, play and movement of 4 children. The floor space measurement was for example two children aged under 12 months and two children aged between 12 and 24 months. It will depend on the age group of the children in attendance in this room. There were three standard cots located in the playroom.

Wobbler room measured 26.5 square meters. Adequate floor space is available in the proposed playroom for the work, play and movement of 9 children at any one time aged between 1 and 2 years in the room.

Toddler room measured 26.4 square meters. Adequate floor space is available in the proposed playroom for the work, play and movement of a maximum of 11 children aged between 2 and 3 years in the room.

Playschool Room measured 45 square meters. Adequate floor space is available in the proposed playroom for the work, play and movement of 22 (ECCE) children in the service with 2 to 3 adults directly attending to the children at all times. For children attending the full day care service in the evening the room can accommodate a maximum of 19 children aged over three years.

Preschool Room measured 33.90 square meters. Adequate floor space is available in the proposed playroom for the work, play and movement of 19 (ECCE) children in the service with 2 adults directly attending to the children at all times. For children

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	<p>attending the full day care service in the evening the room can accommodate 15 children aged over three years.</p> <p>(3) The floor space of 1.818 square meters applies per each preschool child attending (ECCE) for the morning session.</p>
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