

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015CE009
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Name of Service	Boston Community Childcare
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Address of Service:	Kylecreeen, Boston, Tubber, Co Clare H91 PXR7
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Email Address:	edellittlerockers@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Provider:	Edel Cooney
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	Change in Service Type from Sessional to Full Day. Change in Number of Children from 18 to 22. Change in Hours of Operation from 09:30-12:30 to 08:15-17:15. Change in Number of Staff Employed from 2 to 3.
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Proposed Number of Children:	22
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Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Type of service - Full Day Care service Number of children – 18 pre-school children attending on a sessional basis 14 pre-school children attending on a full day care basis Hours of Operation - 08:15 to 17:15. Number of Staff Employed - 3.
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Registered change:	Change in Service Type from Sessional to Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service Change in Number of Children from 18 to 18(Max 14 full day/part-time) children. Change in Hours of Operation from 09:30-12:30 to 08:15-17:15. Change in Number of Staff Employed from 2 to 3. staff
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Date of Inspection:	2	5	0	3	2	0	2	6
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Inspection undertaken by:	J Hayes
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
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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 for 18(Max 14 Full Day/Part-Time) Children
Date of Registration	13 April 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	Boston Community Childcare is a community-based service, located in a rural village, in north Clare. The children’s care and learning are facilitated in a prefabricated structure on the grounds of the parish church, opposite Boston national school. The service currently operates a sessional service Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 12:30, for children ranging in age from three to six years during school term only.
Premises	The prefabricated premises consists of an entrance hallway, two playrooms and sanitary accommodation. An enclosed outdoor area with grass surface is located to the side of the building.
Staffing	There are currently two adults employed in the service with a plan to employ a third adult. The registered provider is also the person in charge of the service and works directly with the children.
Methodology	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

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	<p>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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and staff who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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:	<p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The service has a designated person in charge of operating the service and a named person available who is available to deputise if required.</p>
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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:

(1)

The service has committed to ensuring that there are an adequate number of adults working directly with the children daily. It is proposed that an additional adult to work directly with the children, will be employed in the service.

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*

Requirement met:

(1)(a)

There are adequate facilities for the children to play indoors.

The care rooms are of adequate size to accommodate tables and chairs for each child.

Areas of interest are set up which facilitate independent play in small or large groups.

Toys and resources are at a height that is accessible to all children.

(b)

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	<p>There is a quiet area in the room that can facilitate time away from the main play area. This can be easily supervised by the staff. This area contained a floor mat and soft seating for comfort.</p> <p>(3)(a)</p> <p>The facilities for play outside are directly adjacent to the service and can be accessed via a door from the main playroom. This area located to the side of the building is secured and consists of a grass surface. A selection of gross motor and messy play activities are provided in the enclosed space and additional ride on toys, scooters, bicycles and balls are available for use in the outdoor area.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(1)(b)</p> <p>Sleep beds required to facilitate a comfortable sleep environment for any child who requires a sleep while attending the service on a full day care basis are not available.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>The required sleep beds have been ordered and the invoice for purchase has been submitted.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p>

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:	<p>The service has a healthy eating policy which is shared with parents. All food is provided by the parents/guardians of the children attending the service and will be reheated onsite as required.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement in relation to this regulation was met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fridge is provided in the kitchen area for the safe storage of perishable food items contained in children’s lunches. • There is access to hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels at each of the children’s wash hand basins. • There are lidded pedal operated bins available for the safe disposal of waste. • All blind cords at the windows are secured. • Cleaning agents are stored in a high-level cupboard out of the reach of children. • The dedicated outdoor play area is appropriately secured to prevent a child leaving the area unattended or prevent unauthorised access to the area. • The toys and equipment are free from pinch and crush points. • The high shelving units in the care rooms are secured to the walls. • The fire exit doors are unobstructed. • The hot water in the wash hand basins used by the children was recorded at a safe temperature of 31.3°C.
Requirement not met:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two goal posts located in the outdoor area were unsecured and could pose a serious injury to a child should they fall over and hit a child.
Response from Provider:	The goal posts have been secured to the ground and photographic evidence has been submitted.
Summary Comment:	The requirement has been met.

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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:

- (1)
There is an adult working in the service with current certification in First Aid Responder training.
- (2)(a)
A suitably equipped first aid box is stored in the main playroom in the service. The adults working in the service are familiar with the location of the first aid box.
- (b)
The first aid box is available for use by the adults if its contents are required at any time.

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:

- (1)(a)
Records are available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills are carried out by the service. The last fire drill took place on 24 March 2026.
- (b)
Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service are available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The firefighting equipment was

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serviced on 25 March 2026, and the smoke detection system was serviced on 01 June 2025.

(4)

Fire action notices are displayed demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The service has adequate insurance. The insurance certificate is available and indicates cover from 28 March 2026 to 27 March 2027 for 22 children attending a full day care service.

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:

- (a)
- The service is located in a prefabricated premises which appears to be of sound and stable structure with no visible defects.
- (b)
- The doors to the service are secured which ensured that no child could leave the service and no unauthorised person could gain access to the premises. The designated outdoor space is secured by a high-level railing.
- (c)
- Natural and artificial lighting is provided in the care rooms. The artificial lighting is provided by covered fluorescent lights.

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	<p>Wall mounted electric heaters are provided to heat the premises. The care room temperatures on inspection were recorded ranging from 20.9°C to 22.2°C which is within the appropriate limits. This would afford the children comfort when playing and doing activities.</p> <p>Natural ventilation is provided with openable windows available throughout the service.</p> <p>(d) The premises appears to be in a good state of repair</p> <p>(e) The service is equipped with an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins for the proposed number of children. There are two toilets and two wash hand basins available for children and a toilet and wash hand basin available for the adults. Warm water to a temperature of 31.3°C, liquid soap and paper towels are provided for handwashing and drying.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(e) A pest control process is not in place for the service and evidence of pest activity is visible in the outdoor storage area.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(e) A pest control company has visited the service and a system for pest control has been put in place. Photographic evidence and a report from pest control have been submitted.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p>

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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.

Requirement not met:	<p>(1) Adequate clear floor space is not available for the proposed 22 children to attend the service.</p> <p>(2) Sufficient space is not available to accommodate the proposed 22 pre-school children to attend the service.</p> <p>The space available in the main playroom measured 23.25m² and the space available in the kitchen area measured 9.75m². The total space of 33m² can accommodate a maximum number of 18 children to attend on a sessional basis and a maximum number of 14 children to attend on a full day care basis. This was agreed with the registered provider on the day of inspection.</p>
Response from Provider:	The service can confirm registration for 18 pre-school children for sessional care and 14 pre-school children for full day care on the understanding that there are no school age children in care at the same time as 14 pre-school children
Summary Comment:	The requirements for registration have been met.