

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015CE025

**Name of Service:** Clare Family Resource Centre

**Address of Service:** Watery Road, Ennis, Co. Clare

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Liam O'Connor

<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"/>

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Additional Sessional Ecce Room
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	11
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	No change recommended as the room has not deemed suitable.
<b>Registered change:</b>	No change recommended as the room has not deemed suitable.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	0	0	7	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection undertaken by:** J Ryan & E Browne  
**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:**  
 Tusla Early Years Inspectorate  
 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Estuary House  
 Henry Street  
 Limerick

**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, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 140 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	27 <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>	Clare Family Resource Centre was established as a community-based service in 1996. The service is located in Ennis, County Clare. A full day, part time and a sessional programme of care is offered for children ranging from six months to six years of age, Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 18:00.
<b>Premises</b>	The service is located in a purpose built, two storeys building that accommodates six preschool rooms and two sleep rooms. There are seven rooms in operation. These included: the Baby room (age range: six months to one year), the Waddler room (age range: one to two years), the Toddler room (age range: one to two years), the Blossom Montessori room (age range: two to three years), the Sunflower room (age range: two to five years) and on the first floor the Poppy room (age range: three to five years). The outdoor play areas located from each room provided a space with multisensory, physical, gross motor and imaginative play areas and these are accessed from each room.
<b>Staffing</b>	Thirty-nine adults are employed by the service. The registered provider is part of a board of management and does not work in the service.
<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>

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<b>Additional Information</b>	During a previous Inspection on 08/03/2024,11/03/2024 and 12/03/2024 the Inspector observed a new additional room called the Bluebell room was in operation on a part-time/full day care basis prior to approval from the Registration Office.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge and staff 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:**

(1)(a) The service will have a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise available.

### 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)—

(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:**

(1) There will be an adequate number of adults working in the service as it proposes to have 2 adults supervising a maximum of 11 preschool Early Childhood Education and Care (ECCE) children at any one time.

(8)(c) A second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance if required will be available in the event of an emergency.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	(1)(a) There were clearly defined interest areas in the room and sufficient play equipment was evident in the outdoor play area. (b) Suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day were available in the quiet/rest corner and consisted of large bean bags. (2)(b) Not applicable.
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	(1)(a) Facilities for children to play indoors and outdoors were not suitable as the room was not of a sound and stable structure. The room was constructed during the Covid -19 pandemic and was not intended to be used on a permanent basis following the pandemic. Please refer to Regulation 29 re the suitability of the proposed room. A safe secure outdoor space was available on site for outdoor play for the children who are proposed to attend this room however the children will have to cross the public car park to get to this area.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	The manager responded in the Registration Requirements form on 27/07/2024 stating that the room will no longer be used as a playroom for children.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The registration requirements have not been met therefore the room cannot be used to accommodate an additional 11 preschool children.

### 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>	Nutritious food and drinks will be provided by the service and refrigerated where required. A healthy eating policy for the service has been documented and is available.
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# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## 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 entrance door was secured preventing unauthorised access and preventing a child leaving the service.</p> <p>Storage for cleaning materials and equipment was provided in a secure area in a cupboard out of reach of the children.</p> <p>Water temperatures at the wash hand basins were maintained at or below 43°C.</p> <p>Toys and play equipment were safe and suitable for the age of children using</p>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p>The following issues were of concern and posed a risk to the health, safety and welfare of children:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Windows in the room were made of perspex glass, were not sealed and airtight and were opened and closed by long cords.</li> <li>2.There was no electrical power supply to the room.</li> <li>3.There was no artificial lighting in the room.</li> <li>4.There was no heating installed for the winter months. The temperature recorded in the playroom on the day was 35.6 degrees Celsius which was above the recommended temperature range of between 16 – 20 degrees Celsius. It was a sunny day, and the heat was intense because of the perspex roof and perspex windows.</li> <li>5.Drinking water was not readily available to the children in the room.</li> <li>6.There were numerous window blind cords which posed a potential hazard to the children as they were extra-long.</li> <li>7.Children will have to access the public carpark to get to the outside play area.</li> <li>8.Fire extinguishers were not available in the room.</li> <li>9.A smoke alarm was not installed in the room.</li> </ol>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<p>The manager responded in the Registration Requirements form on 27/07/2024 stating that the room will no longer be used as a playroom for children.</p>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	<p>The registration requirements have not been met therefore the room cannot be used to accommodate an additional 11 preschool children.</p>

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 were persons trained in first aid for children (First Aid Responder) and will be available to the children proposing to attend the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children was available.
- (b) The first aid box will be available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

### 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) Arrangements are in place to record any fire drill that will take place in the premises.

#### Requirement not met:

- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises and specific to the proposed additional room was not available.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was not displayed in a conspicuous position in the room. The fire assembly point was not clearly identified and visible.

#### Response from Provider:

The manager responded in the Registration Requirements form on 27/07/2024 stating that the room will no longer be used as a playroom for children.

#### Summary Comment:

The registration requirements have not been met therefore the room cannot be used to accommodate an additional 11 preschool children.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

**Requirement met:**

The Insurance certificate for the service was available for the sessional service and had an expiry date of 27/03/2025.

### 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 not met:**

(a) The room was not of sound and stable structure as the walls were built of timber, perspex glass covered part of the walls and the roof. The room was not sealed and airtight.  
 (b) The room was not safe and secure as it was a temporary structure erected during the Covid 19 pandemic.  
 (c) The room was not kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated. The temperature recorded in the room on the day was 35.6 degrees Celsius. Artificial lighting was not installed. Heating was not installed for the winter months.  
 (d) The room was not cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required. The premises was not rodent proofed as there were gaps in the entrance door.  
 (e) The room was not equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities as there was no separate toilet facilities for adults.

**Response from Provider:**

The manager responded in the Registration Requirements form on 27/07/2024 stating that the room will no longer be used as a playroom for children.

**Summary Comment:**

The registration requirements have not been met therefore the room cannot be used to accommodate an additional 11 preschool children.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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:

- (1) Sufficient clear floor space was available in the room for the number of children proposing to attend the pre-school service.
- (2) The measurements of the playroom were recorded as  
 8.7m x 6.6 m = 57.42 meters squared  
 3.8m x 2.8 m = 10.64 meters squared  
 Total Space 66.08 meters squared
- A maximum of 22 preschool children are allowed attend in one room at any one time.
- (3) A minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child proposing to attend the service.