

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015CE073

Name of Service: Liscannor Childcare

Address of Service: McCreehy's National School, Liscannor, County Clare.

Email Address: liscannorchildcarecentre@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms Liz Bonito

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change:	Increase of children in attendance from 20 to 24 children
Proposed Number of Children:	24
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	22
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 20 to 22

Date of Inspection:	0	8	1	1	2	0	2	2
Date of Inspection:	0	9	1	1	2	0	2	2

Inspection undertaken by: Á. McCarthy & M. Ní Nialláin

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:

Primary Care Centre
 Station Road
 Ennis
 County Clare.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	7 th February 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).

Description of Service	Liscannor Childcare Centre is a community-based service, registered to provide a full day care, a part time and sessional service for 20 children ranging in age from two to six years of age. The service operates from 08:00 to 17:30 Monday to Friday from September to August each year.
Premises	The Early Years Service is located in a purpose-built single storey premises. An open plan pre-school room, a rest area room, a kitchen, and an office are provided in this service. An enclosed, partially covered outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the service. The service is located on the national school grounds in Liscannor village.
Staffing	<p>The manager and the staff member were present and employed by the service to work directly with the children. A student on work placement was present during the inspection. The registered provider does not work in the service and was present for the closing meeting.</p> <p>Two adults working in the service held a qualification in Early Childcare Education and Care ranging from Level 5 to Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.</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	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present during 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The service manager is the designated person in charge on a daily basis and there is a named person 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.

(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 not met:

The requirements are not met.

(1)

The minimum ratio of adults supervising children was not maintained at all times for the number and age range of children in attendance. The required ratio of one adult supervising eight pre-school children was not maintained for the children attending on a full day care basis from 12.00 onward.

(2)

During the inspection there were nineteen children in attendance in the morning being supervised by two staff members and a student.

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	<p>One staff member alone cared for fourteen children from 12.00 for a period of one and a half hours to facilitate the lunch break of the second staff member. Every day from 12.00, for a period of two and a half hours during lunch breaks and later in the afternoon from 15:00 to 17:30 only one staff member was available to supervise the children in attendance. The childcare student cannot be counted as a member of staff as they are supernumerary while completing their childcare training. The student was not recorded on the staff roster to work on the 9th November 2022.</p> <p>(8)(a)</p> <p>A review of the staff roster, attendance records and discussion with staff indicated two staff members were not available, at all times to supervise the children currently attending the service.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(1),(2) & (8)(a)</p> <p>A student is in the process of completing a qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education. A newly qualified staff member was employed on the 23rd January 2023.</p> <p>There will always be two qualified staff at all times on the premises.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>Based on the registered providers stated actions, the non-compliances identified have been addressed. These actions will be reviewed on next inspection.</p>

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.*
- (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:

The requirements are met.

(1)

(a) Both the indoor and outdoor environment was suitably resourced for the number of children in attendance. The children freely moved throughout the day between each area.

Indoor area:

The care room consists of a large open plan room with a round shaped library in the lower half of the room which is accessed by a small door. Upon the Inspector’s arrival

the children were observed to be engaged in tabletop activities on the child sized tables and chairs. The room included a home and shop corner, a construction area, a sand box and an arts and crafts area. All the toys and equipment were accessible on low level shelving which encouraged child led activities.

Outdoor area:

The children accessed the outdoor area which leads directly from the care room. The wooden fencing has a viewing panel for the children to watch the sea view as they wish. The toys available included rocking toys, tricycles, tractors, a wheelbarrow and a small slide.

(b)

The service has two areas for the children to rest and relax as they need. The rest area in the open plan care room included a two-seater couch and a rest area room was available leading from the care room this accommodated a three-seater couch, cushions and a blanket.

(2)(b)

Not applicable, as the service did not move premises on or after the 30th June 2016.

(3)

(a) A suitable, safe and secure outdoor area was available leading from the care room. The outdoor area was partially covered which accommodated play in all weather conditions. Part of the ground surface was covered with wet pour surface and artificial grass. The area was enclosed by a high wooden fence and patio doors leading into the care room on the other side. The play area was accessed freely by the children on both days of 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.

Requirement Met:

The requirements are met.

The parents provided the food and drinks for all the children in attendance. The food was reheated at lunchtime by one staff member in the kitchen. The snacks observed during the morning breaktime included yoghurt's, bread rolls, rice cakes, fresh fruit, raisins and cheese. At lunchtime the children's lunch observed included various meat, vegetables, pasta and potatoes. The children were offered their drinks during mealtime.

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 wash hand basins had running hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels in the sanitary facility. Hand sanitiser gel was provided at the entrance to the service to facilitate additional hand hygiene procedures.
- Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children proposed to attend the service.
- No trailing flexes, cables or electric items were accessible to the pre-school children.
- Cleaning agents and equipment were suitably secured in a locked cupboard.
- The designated fire exit routes from the care room were accessible on both days of inspection.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fire action notice was available demonstrating guidelines on evacuating the service in the event of a fire. A fire assembly point was identified by the manager.
Requirement not met:	<p>The requirements are not met.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The wooden gate leading from the outdoor area was jammed and could not be opened. Four of the metal supporting beams in the outdoor area do not have protective covers in place which posed a risk of injury to a child.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The wooden gate has since been fixed and can be opened. The four metal poles have been covered with a softer material.
Summary Comment:	Based on the registered providers stated actions the requirements are met. These actions will be reviewed on next inspection.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>Two adults present were qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) and the certificates were available for inspection.</p>
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(2)(a)
 First aid boxes were suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions in the service, available at all times for the children if necessary.

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:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1)(a) A written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on the 21st October 2021.</p> <p>(b) A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment was serviced on the 28th October 2022 and the smoke alarm system was serviced on the 15th June 2022.</p> <p>(4) A written notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.</p>
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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 requirement is met.

Evidence of current insurance cover was available for the type of service provision and the number of children attending the service and the expiry date noted was 27th March 2023.

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 premises appeared to be in good condition and of sound structure.

(b)

The internal and external doors and fencing were appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access to the service and prevent unsupervised children leaving the service. A bell operated entry system was available to gain entry to the service.

	<p>(c)</p> <p>Lighting</p> <p>The windows within the pre-school rooms provide the service with natural lighting which is augmented by artificial lighting in the form of covered fluorescent lighting built into the ceilings.</p> <p>Heating</p> <p>The service is heated by means of an under-floor heating system.</p> <p>Ventilation</p> <p>The large patio doors once opened act as a form of ventilation in the room and windows in the bathroom allow fresh air to circulate.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>The service was in a generally clean condition. Documented cleaning schedules were on display in the service.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>The requirements are not met.</p> <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The requirement of three toilets and three wash hand basins was not available to meet the requirement for the proposed increase of 24 children. Only two toilets in separate cubicles fitted with doors and two accompanying wash hand basins were provided in the sanitary accommodation located off the care room which can accommodate a maximum of 22 toilet trained children. 2. The nappy changing unit was not available for use by the children as this was used for storage of craft activities on the mat and on the shelving unit below.
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The service is seeking a solution to erect a third toilet and wash hand basin in the sanitary area.

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	2. The nappy changing unit surface is now cleared and is available for use.
Summary Comment:	Currently there are only two toilets and two accompanying wash hand basins available for use by the children in the sanitary accommodation located off the care room. The service can currently only accommodate 22 preschool children.

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 met:	<p>The requirements are met.</p> <p>(1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement of the pre-school children proposed to attend the service. However, the requirements are not met under Regulation 29 (e).</p> <p>(2) The total available space in the care room and rest area room measured approximately 97.59 metres squared. The maximum number of preschool children allowed is 22, as there are only toilet facilities currently available for 22 preschool children.</p>
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