

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015CN019

**Name of Service** Cootehill Community Childcare

**Address of Service:** Drumnaveil, Cootehill, Co. Cavan H16 NH28

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Jenine Smith

<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>	To increase the number of pre-school children being catered for in the service from 74 up to 80 in total.
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	80
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	The application to increase to 80 children accommodated in the service can be approved.
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 74 to 80

**Date of Inspection:** 2 3 0 8 2 0 2 3

**Inspection undertaken by:** S Taaffe  
**Title:** Early years inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.

### 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 80 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> August 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>	<p>Cootehill Community Childcare is a community-based not-for-profit service that has been operating from this premises since 2010. The service is registered to provide full day-care, part-time and sessional care to pre-school children and accommodates children from 6 months of age. The service is also registered to accommodate school aged children up to 12 years of age. The service operates from 8.00am - 6.00pm from Monday – Friday for 50 weeks of the year, closing for 2 weeks over Christmas into the new year on an annual basis. School aged childcare services are also provided.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>This service operates from a 2-storey purpose-built building located beside a housing estate in Cootehill in Co. Cavan. To date, there are three care rooms in operation, all of which are located on the ground floor, namely the Baby Room, the Toddler Room, and the Pre-school/ School Age Room which consists of two adjoining rooms divided by double doors and operated as one free-flowing space are. It is proposed to operate a new room on the first floor to be known as the Junior Pre-school Room.</p> <p>A sleep room containing 4 standard cots is accessed directly from the Baby Room. A carpeted sensory room with foam matting, soft furnishings and sensorial resources is provided on the ground floor to facilitate individual or small groups of children to avail of a change of environment within the premises. Ancillary accommodation includes a kitchen on the ground floor and a staff room, locker room and laundry room on the first floor. Spacious secure outdoor play areas are provided to the rear and side of the premises.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The registered provider is the chairperson of the Board of Management of a local community group. There are 20 staff members employed in the service, consisting of two co-managers, a staff member who engages in administration duties as well as working directly with the pre-school children when required, a chef and 16 staff members who work directly with the pre-school children and school aged children.</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 two co-managers, staff and children who are 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 requirement has been met.

The two service co-managers are the designated persons in charge and there was a named person to deputise when 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) During the fit for purpose inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. The registered provider is aware of the requirement to meet the adult:child ratios specified in the regulations.

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### 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

#### Requirement met:

- (1)(a) The three existing care rooms and the proposed new room are well resourced with play equipment which are laid out to facilitate a range of play opportunities and experiences for the children in attendance. The play materials are stored on low-level shelving which are accessible to the pre-school children in each care room. The well-defined interest areas included home corners, shop areas, construction areas, arts and crafts areas, and libraries. Push-along toys, a vinyl-covered foam ball pool and stable props are provided in the Baby Room to support the children's gross motor development and to provide opportunities for the children to pull themselves up to stand. Sensory materials including sand trays, water tables and play dough are provided in each care room. Play equipment are provided in the outdoor play area to facilitate play experience outside.
- (b) The service provided a sleep room containing 4 standard cots. A number of stackable beds are provided for pre-school children who are developmentally ready to sleep outside of a cot. The two co-managers are aware of both the current and the upcoming revised guidance from the Inspectorate in relation to sleep and rest provision for children under 24 months of age. A rest area is available in the four care rooms with mats and cushions provided to enable a child to rest and relax until they are ready to resume activity and play.
- (3)(a) There are three separate spacious fully enclosed outdoor play areas provided which had direct access from the three care rooms on the ground floor. Each of these three areas are surfaced in impact-absorbent material with a section of each space covered with an open-sided lean-to structure which provided shelter from sun or rain and which facilitated outdoor play in all weathers. Another separate area called the 'secret garden' is located off the outdoor play area adjoining the Toddler Room which

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had a variety of digging patches and surfaces including stones, bark and sand. A further separate grassy area is laid out as a football pitch. A broad range of age-appropriate play equipment is provided in each section to support outdoor play experiences for the children. This included climbing equipment, slides, balance beams, mud kitchens, push-along and ride-on toys, playhouses, wooden tepees and sand tables.

### 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 requirement has been met.  
Children who attend the service on a sessional basis bring their own morning snack from home, and otherwise, the service supplies all meals and snacks to the children, cooked and prepared on site by the service chef in the kitchen located on the ground floor. A three-week menu is on display showing that a variety of nutritious food is served to the children. Drinking water is available and accessible to the children in the individual care rooms.

### 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.  
The inspector did not identify any hazards that would impact the health, safety or welfare of the pre-school children attending the service. It appeared that all measures had been undertaken by the registered provider to ensure the safety of the children including the provision of thermostatically controlled warm water in the sanitary accommodation and at the sinks in the care rooms, the premises and outdoor play area being appropriately secured and cleaning agents stored safely out of the reach of children in the locked storage unit. A fridge is available in each room in the service for the storage of perishable food items.

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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) The two co-managers are aware of the requirement to ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. Training certificates were available to show that six staff members held in-date first aid response (FAR) training and a further three staff members are attending FAR training on the day of the fit for purpose inspection.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid supplies are stored in wall-mounted locked cabinets in conspicuous locations in each care room and the contents are available for the children in attendance, in the event of an emergency. Additional first aid supplies are stored in the kitchen and main office.

### 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) A record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. The records indicated that fire drills are carried out on a monthly basis.

(b) The fire fighting equipment and the smoke detection system were both certified as having been serviced on 27/06/2023.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are conspicuously displayed in the premises.

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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 registered provider had insurance cover in place for up to 80 children attending the service on a full day care basis with the current policy set to expire on 27/03/2024.

### 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 met.

(a) The premises and outdoor area appear to be in good condition and well-maintained.

(b) The external doors are appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. Glass panels in the doorways facilitated staff members to see visitors before facilitating their entry to the service. The outdoor play area fully enclosed by the service walls and high-level fencing.

**(c) Lighting**

- Windows and, on the ground floor, a number of glass doors provided the care rooms with natural lighting which is supplemented by artificial lighting.

**Heating**

- The service is heated by means of a gas-fired central heating system.

**Ventilation**

- Ventilation in the care rooms is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents. Mechanical ventilation is provided in the sanitary accommodation. An air conditioning unit is provided in the sleep room.

(d) The premises is in a clean condition and appeared to be in a good state of repair.

(e) The service is equipped with adequate sanitary facilities for the increased proposed total number of 80 children.

On the ground floor there are 5 toilets with 5 accompanying wash hand basins and 3 nappy changing mats with accompanying wash hand basins provided.

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	<p>On the first floor, 1 toilet, 1 nappy changing mat and 2 wash hand basins are provided in the sanitary accommodation directly accessed from the proposed new Junior Pre-school Room.</p> <p>Three toilets and wash hand basins on the premises are designated for use by the staff members.</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 met:

(1) Adequate clear floor space is available for the safety, play and movement of the 80 pre-school children proposed to attend the service.

(2) The minimum space regulatory requirement can be met for the proposed number of 80 pre-school children to be accommodated in the service. The registered provider is aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7.

#### Care rooms provided on the ground floor:

- The clear floor space in the Baby Room measured 36.78 square metres.
- The clear floor space in the Toddler room measured 52.5 square metres.
- The clear floor space in the Pre-school/ School Age Room consisted of two adjoining rooms divided by double doors which are operated as one free-flowing space. The room closest to the main office measured 39.7 square metres and the adjoining room located in the rear corner of the building measured 44.7 square metres, providing a total of 84.4 square metres.

#### Proposed new care room provided on the first floor:

- The clear floor space in the proposed new Junior Pre-school Room measured 66.1 square metres.