

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015CN021

Name of Service: Dúanaire Kindergarten

Address of Service: Hall Street, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan

Email Address: sheelaghmccabe@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Sheelagh Mc Cabe

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the numbers of children attending the service from 85 to 107. An additional 22 children will be accommodated in a new building, Studio 2 in the outdoor area. To increase the number of staff from 15 to 16.
Proposed Number of Children:	107
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	All changes to be approved
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 85 to 107 Change in number of staff from 15 to 16

Date of Inspection:	1	6	0	1	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: D. Murray & AM. Cunningham

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Early Years Inspectorate
Family Resource Centre, Commons Road
Navan Co. Meath

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 107 Children

Date of Registration 7th February 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).

Description of Service	<p>Dùanaire Kindergarten provides a full day, part time, sessional care and education to children from birth to 6 years. A school aged service is also provided. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) and operates from 7.30am to 6.00pm.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the number of children attending the service from 85 to 107. These additional 22 children ranging in age from 2.8 years to school aged will be accommodated in a new building Studio 2 in the outdoor area. To increase the number of staff from 15 to 16.
Premises	<p>The premises is a purpose build two storey building.</p> <p>The rooms are as follows:</p> <p>Downstairs:</p> <p>The Creche room facilitates the care of children from 1 to 2 years.</p> <p>The Toddler room accommodates children from 2 to 2.8 years</p> <p>Upstairs:</p> <p>Montessori Rooms 1&2 provides care and education to children from 3.6 years to school going age.</p> <p>Studio 1 (Separate wooden building outside) provides care for children from 2.8 to 3 years.</p> <p>Other facilities include a main kitchen along with a small kitchen area off Studio 1, sanitary facilities and a sleep room. There are five outdoor play areas designated to specific age groups and a large parking area to facilitate drop off and collection.</p>
Staffing	<p>Employed to work in the service are 15 adults which includes the registered provider, one manager and one catering staff member.</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</p>

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Additional Information	On the day of inspection, the service was operating outside the remit of its registration status. The registered provider stated that the Studio 2 new building was in use prior to a Fit for Purpose Inspection to determine suitability for registration.
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the registered provider, manager, 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.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Requirement met:	The requirements have been partially met. (1) The registered provider has ensured that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. The registered provider is aware of the ratios under reg 11 and has advised of the staffing levels in each care room.
Requirement not met:	(4) The registered provider proposes to increase the number of staff working directly with the children in the service from 15 to 16. This additional staff member currently working in the service does not hold a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.
Response from Provider:	(4) A new staff member has been employed in the service with a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework. The registered provider will ensure when employing new staff that they have a full childcare qualification.
Summary Comment:	A full level 5 childcare has been submitted. The response received from the registered provider has been reviewed and accepted.

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 requirements have been met. (1) The registered provider has ensured that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service. The registered provider is aware of the ratios under reg 11 and has advised of the staffing levels in each care room.
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1)(a) 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—
 (a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time 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.

Requirement met:	<p>(1)(a) The requirement has been met. Play materials and equipment in the Studio 2 building are visible and easily accessible to the children on open shelving at their height which supports children to have choices in selecting materials and equipment to play with. Tables and chairs in the room are appropriate to the age and stage of development of pre-school children attending the room. The room has areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts and a range of suitable toys.</p> <p>(b) The requirement has been met. A cosy area consisting of cushions is available in the room for children to take a break from activities if needed. There will be no children requiring sleep in this room.</p> <p>(2)(a) The requirement has been met. The outdoor space for Studio 2 is enclosed and has a grass surface. The children attending this room also have access to an enclosed all weather surfaces area. Equipment will be brought out for children to play with.</p>
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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 requirement has been met. A variety of freshly prepared food is provided on the premises daily by the catering staff member. A menu plan is available for parents to view. The children will bring their own snacks with the remainder of the meals provided for the children attending the full day care service.
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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:	The requirement has been partially met. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fridge is available for the storage of perishable items in the children’s lunch boxes. • All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children. • Appropriate shatter proof coverings are provided on all ceiling lights in the service.
Requirement not met:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The large dolls house was not stable and posed a toppling risk. 2. The mat in the cosy area had curled edges and posed a trip hazard. 3. The surface area of the radiator was hot to touch with a temperature reading of 50.5°C posing a burn risk. 4. The windows need additional restrictive devices as they can be opened wide if a child were to stand on a raised platform. 5. The bin in the room for general waste did not have an non-touch mechanism and was an infection control risk.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The large dolls house has been removed from the room. 2. A new soft mat has been purchased for the cosy corner. 3. A radiator cover is now in place where children cannot touch the radiator. 4. Window restrictors have been put on all windows to prevent children escaping. 5. A new foot pedal operated bin has been purchased.
Summary Comment:	Photographic evidence has been reviewed which provided assurance that all the safety non-compliances have been rectified. The response received from the registered provider has been accepted.

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) An adequate number of staff have up to date First Aid Responders course and will be available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) and (b) The first aid box is suitably equipped and is safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the care rooms and are available 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:

The requirement has been partially met.

- (1)(a) A template is available to record fire drills that take place in the service.
- (b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The firefighting equipment was last serviced on the 10/05/2023. The smoke detection system were last serviced in July 2023.

Requirement not met:

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was not conspicuously displayed in the care room.

Response from Provider:

(4) The procedure to be followed in the event of a fire has been displayed clearly in the room.

Summary Comment:

The procedure to be followed in the event of a fire were submitted.
The response received from the registered provider has been reviewed and accepted.

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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 has been met.

The service has adequate insurance for 112 children from the 04/09/23 to the 27/03/24.

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.

(a) The inspector observed the walls, flooring, doors, and windows appear to be of a stable structure.

(b) The door at the entrance to the Studio 2 room is secure with a turn lock device and the outdoor areas are secure. These safety measures prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and prevents unauthorised access.

(c) Windows provided natural lighting to the care room. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required.

Heating is provided through a wall mounted radiator. The temperature of the pre-school room was between 16°C to 17°C on the day of inspection. Natural ventilation is provided by opening the door and windows.

(d) The room appeared clean with cleaning schedules available.

(e) The children's sanitary facilities consisted of the following:

- Two toilet closets and 1 wash hand basin.
- Warm water not exceeding 43°C, liquid soap and paper hand towels are provided in the sanitary facilities.

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Requirement not met:	<p>(c) There was no means of heating in the sanitary facilities in Studio 2. The ambient air temperature reading was 14°C.</p> <p>(d) The surface area of the floor, the wooden doors and partitioned wall in the sanitary facilities had a raw wood surface which was not adequate for effective cleaning.</p> <p>(e) Facilities at the sanitary accommodation were inadequate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was only 1 sink available for 22 children. A sink must be available for every 11 children. • There was no seat on the 1st toilet in the sanitary facilities to provide stability and comfort to children when using the toilet.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A wall mounted heater has been installed to ensure the sanitary facility are heated. 2. The floor and the door in the sanitary facilities have been painted to ensure they can be cleaned effectively. 3. Another sink has been installed. 4. A seat has been fitted to the toilet.
Summary Comment:	<p>Photographic evidence has been reviewed which provides assurances that the non-compliances have been rectified.</p> <p>The response received from the registered provider has been reviewed and accepted.</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.*

Requirement met:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The registered provider ensures that adequate clear floor space is available in the service to accommodate the additional 22 children being proposed.</p> <p>(2) Clear floor space available is 43.71 square meters. There is adequate clear floor space available for the number of children proposed by the registered provider i.e. 22 children attending on a sessional basis or 19 children attending on a full day basis.</p>
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