

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015CN022

**Name of Service** Scallywags Childcare

**Address of Service:** 3 Coppengagh, Virginia, Co. Cavan, A82 D6K7

**Email Address:** scallywagsplaygroup@hotmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Catherine Keenan

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	✓	<b>Part-Time</b>		<b>Sessional</b>	
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

**Proposed change:** To increase the numbers of children attending from 71 to 79.  
To use an additional room downstairs

**Proposed Number of Children:** 79

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** To increase the number of children from 71 to 79 in an additional room.

**Registered change:** Change in number of children from 71 to 79 Children

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	3	1	0	7	2	0	2	5
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**Inspection undertaken by:** AM Cunningham

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, Meath Child & Parent Support Commons Road, Navan, Co. Co. Meath C15 CP23

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
**Proposed Change of Circumstance**

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	<b>Registered Full Day Care for 79 Children</b>
<b>Date of Registration</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> August 2025</b>

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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>Sallywags Childcare is one of three privately-owned Early Years services operated by the registered provider in Co. Meath and Cavan. This full day care service was established in 2006 and was taken over by the registered provider in December 2021. The service caters for pre-school children from 0 months to 6 years and also provides a school aged service. The service operates from 07:30am to 6pm from Monday to Friday and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The registered provider is purposing the following: To increase the number of children in the service from 71 to 79. To increase the number of staff from 18 to 19, to use an additional room downstairs for preschool children.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The premises is a purpose built 2-storey building which is located adjacent to the registered provider's family home in a rural setting close to the village of Virginia in Co. Cavan. There are 5 care rooms an office, kitchen and sanitary facilities.</p> <p>The rooms are as follows:</p> <p><b>Downstairs:</b> The Cub room caters for children from 0 to 2 years attending on a full day care basis. The Penguin room facilitates the care of children from 2 to 3 years attending on a full day care basis. The proposed new preschool room to care for children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years attending on a sessional and full day care basis.</p> <p><b>Upstairs:</b> The Wallaby room and the Kangaroo room provide care and education to children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years attending the service on a sessional/full day care basis. The Koala room provide care and education to children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years attending the service on a sessional basis. This room accommodates school aged children in the afternoon. An enclosed outdoor space is located to the rear and side of the premises.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The registered provider employs a manager, 18 childcare staff and a cook. The registered provider purposes to increase the number of childcare staff to 19.</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> <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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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. The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able 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.

#### 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.

### 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) The requirement has been met. Play materials and play equipment in all care rooms are visible and easily accessible to the children on open shelving at their height which supported children to have choices in selecting materials and equipment to play with. Tables and chairs in each room are appropriate to the age and stage of development of pre-school children attending the specific care rooms. The care rooms are well resourced and had areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts and a range of suitable toys.

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(b) The requirement has been met. A cot room is available with 8 standard cots for the younger age group requiring sleep. Stackable beds are placed on the floor in the Penguin room for the older age group. Cosy areas consisting of mats and soft furnishings are available in each care room for children to take a break from activities if needed.

(3)(a) The outdoor space is divided into 3 areas. The smaller area is for the Cubs room which has an artificial grass surface and is enclosed by fencing with a secured side gate. Equipment included plastic playhouse and small slides; additional equipment is also brought out. The larger outdoor space and the addition of another outdoor space to the side of the building facilitates the remainder of the care rooms. The surface area consists of a low impact surface and cement. Equipment included a wooden playhouse with a slide and a ladder, mud kitchens, sand and soil trays, wooden house, art easel, tyres with stones and gravel for digging, gutters on the fencing for pouring, ride on toys, basketball stand and a slide. A partially sheltered area permitted outdoor play in all types of weather.

### 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 service provided the main meal of the day which was prepared onsite by the resident cook. There was a 4-week menu plan available and the main meal on the day of inspection consisted of beef stew and mash. Drinks are available in all care rooms throughout the day. The parents supply all the snacks.

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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 met.

- All cleaning agents are stored out of reach of the children. Cleaning schedules are maintained.
- All play materials are placed on stable based shelving units. Play materials and equipment are observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children attending each room.
- The emergency exit doors are unobstructed.
- Fridges are available for the storage of perishable items in the children’s lunch boxes.
- Sleep logs were available to record 10 minutes sleep checks on children who were sleeping.

### 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) 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.

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### 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 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 in May 2025, and the smoke detection system were last serviced on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the service.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Early Years Inspector for a total of 79 children. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

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### 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 service is a purpose-built building located outside Virginia Co Cavan. The interior walls, floors and ceilings of the rooms in use by the service appeared in a good state of repair and maintenance. Windows in the care rooms appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and were both positioned and opened above child height. There was no evidence of dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings.

(b) The door to the service is locked and staff are contacted to gain access; the outdoor spaces were enclosed and secure with side gates. These security measures ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor spaces.

(c) Windows provided natural lighting to the care room. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights are fitted with shatter proof coverings.

Heating is provided through oil central heating system. The temperature of the pre-school room ranged between 18°C to 20°C.

Natural ventilation is provided by opened doors and windows with mechanical ventilation in the nappy changing area downstairs.

(d) The pre-school rooms are in a clean condition on the day of inspection. Cleaning schedules are available to ensure regular cleaning of the service.

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

Between the Cubs and the Penguin rooms there were 2 nappy changing mats with an adult sink and 1 toilet closet with 1 child’s sink. A toilet and nappy changing area have been identified for children in the proposed new room downstairs for their exclusive use.

Upstairs there are 4 toilet closets and 4 sinks and 1 nappy changing free standing unit. Warm water not exceeding 43°C, liquid soap and paper hand towels are provided in all sanitary facilities. Pedal bins are provided for the disposal of paper hand towels. Two staff sanitary facilities are available on the premises.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) Based on the measurements of the proposed new care room and age of the children the registered provider ensured that clear floor space is available for the additional proposed 8 preschool children.

(2) New Preschool room: Clear floor space available is 15.7 square meters.

This provides sufficient space for:

- 8 children between the ages of 2 years 6 months to 6 years attending on a sessional day care basis, or
- 6 children between the ages of 2 years 6 months to 6 years attending on a full day care basis.