

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015DL003

**Name of Service** ABC Childcare Centre

**Address of Service:** Finnvalley Enterprise Park, Lifford, Donegal, F93 XDW3

**Email Address:** abccentre.lifford@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Linda Byrne

<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:**  
 Change in Number of Children - from 44 (Max 42 Part Time) to 64 children  
 Change in Age Profile - from 2 – 6 Years to 0 – 6 Years  
 Change in Service Type - from Part Time, Sessional to Full Day, Part Time & Sessional  
 Change in Hours of Operation - from 09:30-17:15 to 08:00-18:00  
 Change in Number of Staff Employed - from 7 to 17 staff

**Proposed Number of Children:** 64 children maximum.

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Maximum of 64 (Max 55 full day/part-time) children

**Registered change:**  
 Change in Number of Children - from 44 (Max 42 Part Time) to 64 (Max 55 full day/part-time) children  
 Change in Age Profile - from 2 – 6 Years to 0 – 6 Years  
 Change in Service Type - from Part Time, Sessional to Full Day, Part Time & Sessional  
 Change in Hours of Operation - from 09:30-17:15 to 08:00-18:00  
 Change in Number of Staff Employed - from 7 to 17 staff

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	4	0	1	2	0	2	5
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**Inspection undertaken by:** N Mc Endoo and L Costello

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94

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### 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 64(Max 55 full day/part-time) children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2025

### 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>	ABC Childcare Centre is a community-based pre-school service situated in the town of Lifford, Co. Donegal. The service has been operating at its present location since 2008 and offers part-time and sessional education and care to pre-school children aged 2 – 6 years with care and education provided using a play-based pedagogical approach.
<b>Premises</b>	The service has three care rooms in operation. It is proposed that a change of use in one care room and an addition of one care room in order to provide full day care for children aged 0-6 across four care rooms. It is proposed that a designated sleep room that was used for children over 2 years will now be used for children under 2 years of age. There will be a full operational kitchen to provide meals for full day care service.
<b>Staffing</b>	Ten staff are currently employed in the service.
<b>Methodology</b>	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.  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 Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, 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.

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) (a)

There was a person in charge and a 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.

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has partly been met

(1) The Registered Provider is aware of the required adult to children’s ratios. The service has 10 adults employed in the service. The registered provider will increase the staff to 17 to ensure adequate ratio for the proposed number of children.

#### Requirement not met:

(1) The Registered Provider is required to produce a proposed sample roster of staffing within the service that ensures an adequate number of adults are working directly with all children attending the preschool service.

#### Response from Provider:

In a written response the Registered Provider stated:

We have produced and attached a sample rota for the new rooms to show that the adequate ratios will be met.

#### Summary Comment:

The evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been reviewed and accepted. This requirement is now met.

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.*

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has partially been met:

(1) (a)

It is proposed that two rooms located on the ground floor of the building be used for younger children to include babies and wobblers.

The proposed baby room had adequate and suitable facilities for the proposed children attending the service. Soft matting ensured the children had space to crawl and explore, toys included soft foam building blocks, puzzles, push along toys, and sensory areas. Three highchairs were provided for the babies for mealtimes.

The ‘wobbler room’ was set up with the required furniture for the proposed children attending. Three tables and chairs provided for tabletop activities and mealtimes. Interest areas were set up to include a home corner, dress up area, arts and crafts, sensory and construction area. However, these areas were not resourced.

The outdoor area in the service wrapped around the building providing adequate space for the preschool child to enjoy the outdoors, mud kitchens, swings, slides, tyres, car tracks and playhouses all provided opportunities for development of gross motor skills and imaginative play.

(b)

A rest area was provided in both the baby room and wobbler room. A designated sleep room was positioned in between the two rooms and was equipped with 6 standard cots. Linnen provided included cellular blankets appropriate to the age of the proposed children. Stackable floor beds as well as 6 floor beds suitable for those under two were also available in the service. The service had a sample sleep record for the proposed plan of monitoring sleep checks for the children.

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<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) In the baby room, batteries were required for a variety of battery-operated toys including musical walkers, and games.</li> <li>(2) The wobbler room, while set up into various interest areas had no resources.</li> <li>(3) The outdoor area for the younger children requires to be secured and resourced with age-appropriate resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<p>In a written response the Registered Provider stated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All toys have been fitted with batteries.</li> <li>2. All areas of the toddler/wobbler room have now been resourced with materials that are age appropriate. Evidence submitted.</li> <li>3. The outdoor area has now been secured, and age-appropriate resources have been added. Evidence submitted on the 17/02/25.</li> </ul>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	<p>The evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been reviewed and accepted. This requirement is now met.</p>

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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:

It is proposed that all meals will be provided by the service and there will be an option for children availing of a sessional service to bring in their own snacks.

#### Requirement not met:

This requirement has not been met:

- (1) The service requires a healthy eating policy to include a three-week menu plan for children availing of full day care.
- (2) A cook is required to be employed to provide meals and snacks.
- (3) The service is required to be registered with environmental health.

#### Response from Provider:

In a written response the Registered provider stated:

1. A healthy eating policy together with menus has now been drafted and submitted to the inspectorate.
2. We have started the process to employ a cook. The position has been advertised and evidence of this has been submitted to the inspectorate.
3. The service has already been registered with environmental health. Evidence submitted on the 10.02.25

#### Summary Comment:

The evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been reviewed and accepted. This requirement is now met.

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>This requirement has partly been met</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main entrance is secure with a buzz entry system in place.</li> <li>• The outdoor area is secured by a high wooden fence ensuring no unsupervised egress from the service.</li> <li>• Internal doors are appropriately secure to prevent children accessing an unsafe area.</li> <li>• Windows have been risk assessed, and security mechanisms are in place.</li> <li>• Storage facilities are inaccessible to the preschool child.</li> <li>• Water temperatures on the day of inspection were measuring 38°C in line with safe water temperatures.</li> <li>• Staircases were fitted with suitable handrails and the floor covering as in good condition and non-slip.</li> <li>• Baby walkers were prohibited.</li> <li>• All flexes and cables were out of reach of the preschool children.</li> <li>• Waste was inaccessible to the preschool child.</li> <li>• A medication storage unit was available in the kitchen.</li> <li>• A staff room was available for the storage of staff belongings.</li> <li>• The Kitchen and kitchenettes were inaccessible to the preschool child.</li> </ul>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p>This requirement was not met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The double glass doors in both the ‘baby room’ and the ‘wobbler room’ did not display visibility strips at the child’s eye level posing a safety risk.</li> <li>(2) A plug in the ‘baby room’ was damaged exposing wires which could pose a safety risk.</li> <li>(3) The ‘nappy room’ had exposed piping that required to be boxed in and painted.</li> <li>(4) A nappy bin in the nappy changing room required to be removed as it was not foot operated.</li> </ol>

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	<p>(5) There was a broken foot operated bin in the ‘wobbler room’.</p> <p>(6) The three new highchairs in the baby room did not have their straps fitted.</p> <p>(7) A doll’s house in the ‘wobbler room’ was unstable and needed to be secured to the wall.</p> <p>(8) An emergency fire evacuation cot recently purchased for the service was not suitable as it the emergency cot would not fit into the sleep room.</p> <p>(9) As the service has underfloor heating, a risk assessment is required for the use of floor beds to ensure the floor temperature does not exceed 26°C.</p>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>In a written response the Registered Provider stated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The glass doors have now stickers on to ensure visibility and evidence submitted to the inspectorate.</li> <li>2. The plug has now been replaced, and evidence has been submitted to the inspectorate.</li> <li>3. The pipes have now been boxed and repainted, evidence has been submitted to the inspectorate.</li> <li>4. The nappy bin has been removed.</li> <li>5. This bin has been removed and replaced.</li> <li>6. The straps on the highchairs are now fitted, evidence has been submitted to the inspectorate.</li> <li>7. The dolls house has been removed.</li> <li>8. The evacuation cot has been removed, and an evacuation cot with wheels is in place.</li> <li>9. A risk assessment has been drafted to check the floor before the use of daybeds, evidence submitted to the inspectorate.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Summary Comment:</b></p>	<p>The evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been reviewed and accepted. This requirement is now met.</p>

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## 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:

This requirement has been met:

- (1) The registered provider ensured that there were sufficient staff members trained in first aid for children available to the preschool children.
- (2) (a) (b)  
There was a suitably equipped first aid box available to the preschool children if required

### 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:

This requirement was partly met:

- (1) (a)  
The registered provider demonstrated that monthly fire evacuation drills take place in the service the most recent drill occurring on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2024.
- (b)  
A record of the maintenance of all firefighting equipment was available with the most recent maintenance date of February 2024.

#### Requirement not met:

- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were not displayed in the care rooms.

#### Response from Provider:

In a written response the Registered Provider stated:

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	(4) The fire evacuation procedures are now displayed in all rooms, evidence submitted to the inspectorate.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been reviewed and accepted. This requirement is now met.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

<b>Requirement met:</b>	This requirement has been met.  An insurance quotation was submitted to the registration team prior to this inspection.  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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	This requirement has partly been met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(a)</i> On a visual inspection the service appeared to be of a sound and stable structure. The person in charge confirmed that she was not aware of any deficits with the building.</li> <li><i>(b)</i> The building is safe and secure with all accessible doors kept locked.</li> <li><i>(c)</i> Adequate lighting is available in the proposed care rooms with the provision of a mix of natural and artificial lighting. Large openable windows and doors provide adequate light and ventilation, while natural light is supplemented by fluorescent lighting in the baby, wobbler and designated sleep rooms.</li> </ul>
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	<p>(d) The service is clean and appears well maintained.</p> <p>(e) There is adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation in the premises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Baby room’ has shared access to a nappy changing area with the wobbler room that consists of two nappy changing areas and hand basin.</li> <li>• The ‘wobbler room’ has one toilet and hand basin for children’s use in the self-contained sanitary unit. One children’s hand wash basin is available in the wobbler room.</li> <li>• Preschool 1 room located downstairs has one toilet and two sinks. There is access to an additional toilet and sink across the corridor.</li> <li>• Preschool 2 room located upstairs has one toilet and wash hand sinks in the room. There is access to an additional four toilets and four sinks across the corridor.</li> <li>• A sanitary unity with one nappy unit and one sink and one toilet is available upstairs also.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p>The requirement has not been met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The service has no formal mechanism for pest control.</li> <li>(2) The Nappy changing area in the wobbler/baby room consists of two nappy changing areas and divider is required to preserve the dignity of children being changed simultaneously.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>In a written response the Registered Provider stated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We have now enlisted the services of a pest control company who have been and put a pest control plan in place, evidence has been submitted to the inspectorate.</li> <li>2. A divider has been added to the nappy changing area, evidence has been submitted to the inspectorate.</li> </ol>

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<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been reviewed and accepted. This requirement is now met.
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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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>This requirement has been met:</p> <p>(1) Adequate floor space is provided in the proposed classroom for the free movement of children to work rest and play.</p> <p>(2) On a measurement of clear floor space provided the service can accommodate a maximum of 55 children in a full day care service as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="582 1216 1493 1863"> <thead> <tr> <th>Room</th> <th>Clear floor space</th> <th>No of children for sessional service</th> <th>No of Children PT/FDC</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Baby room</b></td> <td>17.24m<sup>2</sup></td> <td>9</td> <td>0-1 year =4 max</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Wobbler Room</b></td> <td>35.67m<sup>2</sup></td> <td>19</td> <td>1-2 years =12max 2-3 years =15 max <i>Proposed 14(12, 2–3-year-olds plus 2 1–2-year-olds)</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Preschool 1 (downstairs)</b></td> <td>46.91m<sup>2</sup></td> <td>25</td> <td>2-3 years =19max 3–6-year-olds = 20 max</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Room	Clear floor space	No of children for sessional service	No of Children PT/FDC	<b>Baby room</b>	17.24m <sup>2</sup>	9	0-1 year =4 max	<b>Wobbler Room</b>	35.67m <sup>2</sup>	19	1-2 years =12max 2-3 years =15 max <i>Proposed 14(12, 2–3-year-olds plus 2 1–2-year-olds)</i>	<b>Preschool 1 (downstairs)</b>	46.91m <sup>2</sup>	25	2-3 years =19max 3–6-year-olds = 20 max
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	Preschool 2 (Upstairs)	44.47m <sup>2</sup>	24	2–3-year-olds = 18max 3–6-year-olds =19 max
	<b>Total</b>		<b>77</b>	<b>55 (max)</b>