

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015DL004

Name of Service Amanda's Cots'N'Tots Creche

Address of Service: Annaugh, Clonmany, Co. Donegal.

Email Address: amandakellyen@yahoo.co.uk

Name of Registered Provider: Amanda Kelly

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: The service proposes to increase the number of children that can be accommodated at any one time from 34 to 45 by use of a new portacabin.

Proposed Number of Children: 45

Recommended Change Following Inspection: It is recommended to approve the proposed change.

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 34 to 45
Change in number of staff to 11

Date of Inspection:	1	6	1	0	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: L McGlynn

Title: Early Years Inspector

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

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 45 Children
Date of Registration	30 th November 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	Amanda's Cots 'N' Tots is a privately owned and operated full day care service situated in the townland of Annaugh between the towns of Clonmany and Ballyliffen in County Donegal's Inishowen peninsula. The service operates weekdays from 8.00am to 6.00pm for children aged 0-6 years. This includes a morning sessional service from 9.15am – 12.15pm.
Premises	The existing service operates from the ground floor of a domestic dwelling that has been purposely adapted for the provision of an early years service. The premises consists of two playrooms with the baby toddler room subdivided to provide a designated area for younger babies. The service is proposing to operate an additional sessional service from a standalone single story prefabricated unit located on the site of the preschool. The building is directly accessed from the outdoor play area and contains one large care room and sanitary accommodation for children.
Staffing	There are 10 staff members currently employed to work in the service which includes the registered provider who is on the premises and working directly with the children in a support/floating capacity. It is proposed that one additional staff member will be appointed to work in the portacabin.
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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was 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:

The requirement has been met. The registered provider is the designated person in charge of the daily operation of the service. A second adult working with children attending the pre-school service has been designated as the named person to deputise in the event of the registered provider's absence.

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 of this regulation have been met.

(1) The registered provider proposes to accommodate a maximum of 11 children ranging in age from 2 to 6 years attending the pre-school service on a sessional basis. There is one named adult employed to care for the children which is adequate provision in line with the minimum ratio of adults to children specified by this regulation.

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.

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(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.

<p>Requirement met:</p>	<p>The findings documented relate to an assessment of the new prefabricated unit to be used as a sessional preschool. The two rooms in the existing building were not included as they were not subject to change as part of this application.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>There was a number of suitable indoor play facilities in place for the age range of children proposed to be catered for. One large playroom was assigned for use by children attending the sessional service. This room was resourced with play materials and equipment appropriate for the age and stage of development of the proposed children. The range of equipment included books, a doll and baby care area and a kitchen/home area. Child height shelving and storage units contained a range of resources to support children’s cognitive development and fine motor skills such as jigsaws, puzzles, connectors and peg boards. Low level tables and chairs were available to both support children’s play and provide appropriate seating for mealtimes.</p> <p>(1)(b)</p> <p>There were adequate rest facilities available. A soft mat and floor cushions were available in the cosy corner for children to rest or relax during the session.</p> <p>(2) (b) There was a space on the premises for children to play outdoors.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(1) (a)</p> <p>1. There was an inadequate quantity of resources within the room to support children’s sensory development. It is acknowledged that the registered provider stated that a water and sand tray had been ordered but was yet to be delivered.</p>

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	2. Each of the areas with the room required additional resources to support children's play, for example the section with art materials contained no paper for children to use and some of the larger play items such as an aircraft boat did not have the additional items required for meaningful play.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sand and water tray are to be delivered next week. 2. Additional items such as art materials and small world toys are available in the room.
Summary Comment:	This requirement has been met.

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 children will bring their lunch from home. The service has a healthy eating policy in place. Potable water was available in the room and will be made available to children along with their drinking bottles from home.

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 registered provider confirmed that there was a mechanism to control entry and exit from the building by way of secure locks.
- The emergency evacuation route from the pre-school room was identified by illuminated emergency exit signage. The designated emergency exit was observed to be clear and unobstructed.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All toys and play resources available on the day of inspection were noted to be clean, in good repair and appropriate for the age range of children proposed to attend the service.
Requirement not met:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The radiator in the care room was not thermostatically controlled to ensure the surface temperature did not reach the maximum safe limit of 50°C. On the day of inspection, the surface temperate of the radiator reached 61°C. There were a number of hazards observed in the outdoor play area designated for use by children attending the portacabin. The hazards were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parked cars Waste bins Building supplies General waste There was no mechanism in place for the safe storage of perishable items brought into the service in children’s lunch boxes. It is acknowledged that the registered provider stated a refrigerator would be purchased, however it was not on site on the day of inspection. The facilities for handwashing were inadequate. There was no liquid soap or paper towels in the sanitary accommodation. There was no facility in the preschool room or sanitary accommodation for the disposal of waste.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The radiator is now thermostatically controlled to ensure it doesn’t reach the maximum safe limit. The hazards in the outdoor play area have been cordoned off so they are not accessible to children. The lunch for the children attending the portacabin will be stored in the refrigerator in the main service. There is now a liquid soap dispenser and paper towels in the sanitary accommodation. There is now a bin in the preschool room and the sanitary accommodation.
Summary Comment:	This requirement has been met.

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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:	(1) The registered provider confirmed that a number of staff have completed appropriate training in first aid for children, at least one of which will be rostered to be on the premises at all times.
Requirement not met:	(2) (a)(b) There was no first aid box available to cater for the children proposed to attend the portacabin.
Response from Provider:	A first aid box was purchased for the portacabin.
Summary Comment:	This requirement has been met.

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 has been met. (1)(a) There was a mechanism in place for recording fire drills.
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- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system was maintained. The most recent maintenance record for firefighting equipment was dated September 2023 and for smoke alarms was dated July 2023.
- (4) The registered provider confirmed the exit route and procedures to be followed. A notice of which is to be displayed the exit point of the building.

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 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.

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) On visual inspection of the premises, the building was found to be of sound and stable structure and there were no obvious defects.
- (c) Natural lighting was facilitated by way of glass panelled windows supplemented with fluorescent ceiling light fittings with protective covers. Ventilation was provided

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	<p>in the care room and sanitary accommodation by way of openable windows which was further supplemented in the sanitary accommodation by mechanical ventilation.</p> <p>(d) The premises presented as clean and well maintained. The registered provider informed the inspector that rodent activity with the indoor areas and the outdoor play areas is monitored by an external company.</p> <p>(e) One toilet and one wash hand basin were provided for children off the playroom. The toilet cubicle was sufficiently enclosed to ensure adequate privacy. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water was available in the hand wash basin to be used by children.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(b) The permitter of the outdoor play area was unsecured on the day of inspection. The area is sounded by a concrete wall with metal gates providing access. On the inspectors arrival to the service and for the duration of the inspection, the gates were propped open. Entry and exit route from the premises are required to be secured to prevent unauthorised entry or exit.</p> <p>(c) The air temperature in the preschool room and the sanitary accommodation was not maintained within the required range of 18°C-22°C. When measured by the inspector, the air temperature in the preschool room was 12.8°C and was 11.9°C in the sanitary accommodation.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(b) The gates will be closed prior to children going outside. As an extra precaution, a second locked gate was added to the entrance to the portacabin.</p> <p>(c) The heat is now on in the portacabin and the air temperature is within the required range.</p>
Summary Comment:	This requirement has been 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.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children.

(2) The clear floor space in the room measured 22.60m². This meets the space requirements for the proposed number of 11 pre-school children attending to avail of the service's sessional childcare provision.