

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2015DL056
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<b>Name of Service</b>	Kid Kare Crèche & Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Tawnalarry, Donegal Town, Donegal, F94 A895
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<b>Email Address:</b>	kidkaredonegal@hotmail.com
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sharon Graham-Porter
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<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>	

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Service proposes to increase the number of children the service can accommodate from 105 to 149 by way of the following; - 22 children attending on a sessional basis and 16 on a part time basis in the earth room. - provide an outdoor preschool service known as curious minds for a maximum of 22 children operated from a designated outdoor space on the premises.
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	149
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	The service has capacity within the earth room to accommodate a maximum of 20 children on a sessional basis and 15 attending on a part time basis. The service did not meet the requirement to provide the additional outdoor service known as curious minds therefore the recommended change following inspection is to increase the capacity of the service to a maximum of 125 children and not 149 children as proposed by the registered provider.
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 105 to 125

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	3	0	0	8	2	0	2	3
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L McGlynn
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94
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<b>Rationale for Inspection:</b>
<b>Proposed Change of Circumstance</b>

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care Service for 125 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2023

<b>Authority to Inspect</b>
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>	Kid Kare Crèche & Montessori is a privately owned and operated early years' service located in a rural setting on the outskirts of Donegal Town. The service is registered to provide a full day, part-time and sessional care to children aged 0 - 6 years and operates from 8.00am-6.00pm each weekday. The service is also registered to provide school age care.
<b>Premises</b>	<p>There are seven preschool rooms in total operating from three separate buildings which are located adjacently on the pre-school site.</p> <p>A single storey building to the right of the two main buildings houses the Earth room which is used as a sessional pre-school in the mornings and a school age service in the afternoons. A large awning shelters an outdoor play area utilised by children in this room on a daily basis.</p> <p>A section of the outdoor play area has been designated for the provision of an outdoor preschool session known as curious minds. There is a wooden structure in the area to provide shelter for children.</p>

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<b>Staffing</b>	In addition to the current staff members employed, the service proposes that a total of six staff members will be assigned to work with the additional children. The registered provider is the named person in charge and there is a named person to deputise in their absence.
<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>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 deputy.

(1)(a) The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named person available to deputise as required. There was a clear management structure within the service which was defined by the registered provider on the day of inspection.

### 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 been met.

(1) The registered provider proposed that six staff members will be assigned to work with the additional children that will be accommodated in the service.

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.*

(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.*

**Requirement met:**

The earth room was adequate and suitable for children aged 2-6 years as proposed by the registered provider. It is envisioned by the registered provider that children attending this room will spend a significant portion of the day outdoors and as a result the resources and interest areas were clearly defined in the large area sheltered by an overhead awning. Areas included imaginary play spaces, library and book corners, art and creative play resources, tabletop/jigsaw/fine motor resources and construction areas. A range of open-ended natural materials were also provided for children in the natural environment.

The area proposing to provide the curious minds outdoor sessional service was also adequately resourced with a range of both natural open ended learning materials and clearly defined structured play items. Play areas were available throughout the outdoor environment and the sheltered areas. The range of play materials included arts and crafts, construction, small world items, play kitchen/home areas, messy play areas, a library, sensory tables, a relaxing area, doll and baby care areas and problem-solving

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	<p>toys. Open low level shelving units enabled all items to be readily accessible to the children.</p> <p>(b) Areas with soft comfortable furnishings such as cushions and floor mats to provide a cosy space for children to relax were available in both spaces and were planned to be further developed by the registered provider.</p> <p>(2) (b) Each of the outdoor play areas provided were suitable safe and secure.</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:

This requirement has been met.

It is proposed that the children will bring a morning snack from home to consume in the service and a hot lunch will be provided if requested by parents which will be prepared in the main service building. Children will bring their individual water bottles and potable water is available on site for refills. The service has a healthy eating policy in place and a rolling three-week menu plan for the hot lunches.

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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 following measures were noted on the day of inspection to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children and to ensure that the environment was safe.

- The mechanisms in place for entry and exit from the premises prevents children from exiting the service unsupervised and the layout of the outdoor area provides clear visibility of visitors to the premises. The boundary of the outdoor play area was secured with boundary fencing.
- Cleaning equipment and materials were stored in a designated storage areas. Cleaning schedules were available to view and contained details on each of the areas within the rooms to be cleaned, the frequency of cleaning and the method used. A daily risk assessment for each area was also available to view which detailed potential hazards indoors and outdoors.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed throughout the inspection.
- Toys and equipment appeared in good condition, appropriate for the proposed age group of children and free from obvious hazards.
- The hot water supply at children’s wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled to not exceed the maximum safe limit of 43°C.
- Liquid soap and paper towels were available in all wash hand basins accessible to children.
- Main waste storage bins were in a secure area away from the children’s play areas.

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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.

#### Requirement met:

- (1) A number of staff members employed to work in the service had completed appropriate training in first aid for children, at least one of which will be available to the children attending the service at all times.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was provided in the earth and curious minds rooms.

### 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) Provisions were in place for documenting fire drills in the main office.
- (1)(b)  
A record of the number and type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarm systems were furnished fir the earth room.
- (4)  
Notices of the evacuation procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the earth room.

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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:

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 superficial visual inspection, the earth room appeared of sound structure with no visible defects. The registered provider confirmed that they have no concerns over the stability or structure of the building.
- (b) The earth room had safety mechanisms in place to control access. The outdoor play areas of both the earth room and the curious minds service were enclosed and secure to prevent children from leaving the area without authorisation.
- (c) There was both natural light from windows and glass doors and artificial lighting provided by recessed lights in the earth room. The heating in the earth room was provided by electric heaters. The air temperature in the earth room was within the recommended range of 18 – 22°C when measured. Natural ventilation was provided in the earth room with two large openable doors. The sanitary units had a door with direct access outdoors allowing airflow.

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	<p>(d) The premises appeared to be in a good state of repair and was clean on the day of inspection. The earth room building is connected to a mains water supply providing appropriate drinking water for staff and children and running water for cleaning.</p> <p>(e) There was adequate and suitable sanitary facilities for the service provision in the earth room. Two toilets and two wash hand basins are provided for children off the playroom. Each toilet cubicle is sufficiently enclosed to ensure adequate privacy. A third wash hand basin is available in the room for children's use. A nappy changing unit and wash hand basin is available for use within sanitary accommodation should a child require changing while attending the service.</p>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	There was no sanitary accommodation available to children proposing to attend the curious minds area.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	A new bathroom will be built containing two toilets and two wash and basins for the children attending curious minds.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	<p>As the sanitary accommodation has not been constructed the requirements of this regulation have not been met with regard to the curious minds area.</p> <p>The service has met the requirements of this regulation with regard to the earth room.</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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children in the earth room.
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(2) The size of the earth room ensured that the required floor space for a maximum number of 20 preschool children in the proposed age range attending on a sessional basis or 15 children on a part time basis.