

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D:	TU2015DL109
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Name of Service	New Beginnings Pre-school
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Address of Service:	Eleaghbeg, Burnfoot, Co. Donegal F93HF53
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Email Address:	Newbeginningspreschool1@hotmail.com
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Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Lynch
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	The service proposes change the service type from sessional to part time and change the hours of operation. It is proposed that the sessional service will operate from 9.00am to 12.00md and 12.30pm to 3.30pm and the part time service will operate from 9.00am to 2.00pm.
Proposed Number of Children:	22 children sessional or 16 children part time.
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	It is proposed to approve the changes as detailed above.
Registered change:	Change of Service Type from Sessional to Part Time / Sessional for 22 children (max 16 part time).

Date of Inspection:	2	0	0	6	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by:	L Mc Glynn
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time / Sessional Service for 22 Children (Max 16 Part Time)
Date of Registration	26 th June 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	New beginnings preschool is located in the border area of burnfoot on the Inishowen peninsula in County Donegal. The service currently operates for 38 weeks of the year providing a morning and afternoon sessional service from 9.00am to 12.00md and 12.30pm to 3.30pm each weekday. The children attending the service are aged between 2 and 5 years.
Premises	The service operates from a single storey detached building located within the grounds of the registered providers dwelling house. There is one playroom with adjacent sanitary accommodation. A kitchen, office and storage facilities are also on site. The service has a spacious outdoor play area that is directly accessible from the preschool room.
Staffing	There are two staff members currently employed within the service who work directly with the children, this includes the registered provider who is the designated person in charge.
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 and staff member 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 named designated person in charge and a named person appointed to deputise when 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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The service currently has 22 preschool children enrolled to attend with 2 staff members employed. The allocation of staff to children currently enrolled is accepted as meeting the required adult child ratios.

(2) The registered provider confirmed that they are aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6 and will ensure that an adequate number of adults will at all times work directly with the number of children attending 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:

(1)(a) This requirement has been met.

Having regard to the number and age range of preschool children which the service proposes to cater for and the amount of time they spend on the premises there were adequate and suitable indoor play facilities in place.

The large, spacious playroom contained an orderly arrangement of play equipment and materials set into clearly defined areas of interest. These included arts and crafts, construction, tabletop, small world items, dress up props, a large play kitchen area, a relaxing area with a range of reading materials, problem solving toys and wide range of manipulative play resources. Open low level shelving units enabled all items to be readily accessible to the children and suitable sized tables and chairs were available for play activities and mealtimes.

Adequate and suitable outdoor play facilities were in place with a dedicated area at the side of the building fully enclosed for children’s play. Ground cover consisted of a

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	<p>combination of concrete slabs, loose stone chipping and artificial grass. The area was sufficient in size to accommodate a large group of children to engage in gross motor physical play such as ball games, cycling, running and jumping. Play equipment in the area included a wooden bridge, swings, tyres and an interest table. A wooden shed housed additional outdoor play equipment such as ride on trikes and bikes.</p> <p>(1)(b) Stackable floor beds were available for children to sleep which were equipped with appropriate bedding. There was a suitable and comfortable rest area including a large couch for children to relax on if they wished.</p> <p>(2) (a) The boundary of the outdoor play area was secured with a wooden fence. The location of the outdoor play area on site allowed for unrestricted daily access.</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.

Children’s food and drink provisions were provided by the service. There was a dedicated kitchen on site where meals are to be prepared. The inspector was informed that children would receive two meals if attending the part time service. Each meal was to include healthy and nutritious food. Milk and water is planned to be served with both meals.

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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 of the service was safe.

- Provisions were made to prevent children exiting unsupervised and adults gaining unauthorised entry to the facility by way of secure entry and exit points. Emergency exit routes were free from obstruction.
- Radiators contained thermostat controls to limit surface temperature and reduce risk of a burn injury.
- Suitable hand washing facilities including liquid soap and single use paper towels were provided in the children’s and adults sanitary accommodation and in the preschool rooms.
- The premises and play equipment was visibly clean. Cleaning equipment and materials were stored in a designated storage area that was secured and not accessible to children. Cleaning schedules were available to view and contained details on each of the areas within the preschool rooms and sanitary accommodation to be cleaned, the frequency of cleaning and the method used.
- Ventilation was provided in each preschool room and in the sanitary accommodation by way of openable windows. Mechanical ventilation supplemented the ventilation in the children’s sanitary accommodation.
- All exit routes and doors were free from obstruction. Records showed that fire drills had been carried out regularly during the current pre-school year. This allowed for children and adults to be familiar with the procedure in the event of an emergency.

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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 had up to date training in first aid for children. The inspector was informed that the registered provider is rostered to be on site at all times when the service is in operation.
- (2) (a) (b) An adequately stocked first aid box was available within the preschool room in a location accessible to staff for use 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:

- The requirements of this regulation were met.
- (1)(a) There was a written record of fire drills that had taken place with the children which were detailed monthly.
- (b) There was documentation detailing the number and type of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system in the building. The firefighting equipment was last serviced in September 2023 and the smoke alarms tested in June 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed at the entrance door.

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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 service. The service 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:

This requirement has been met.

(a) The service operates from a single-story purpose-built building. The registered provider confirmed that they had no knowledge of any structural defects on the building and on superficial visual inspection, the building appeared of sound and stable structure with no obvious defects.

(b) The service was adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry.

(c) An adequate source of heating was provided in the service and sanitary accommodation. This consisted of an oil-fired central heating. The lighting was provided by natural light leading from openable windows supplemented with fluorescent ceiling light fittings with protective covers. The preschool room and

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	<p>sanitary accommodation were ventilated by openable windows. Mechanical ventilation supplemented the ventilation in the children’s sanitary accommodation.</p> <p>(d) The premises appeared to be in a good state of repair and was clean on the day of inspection. The building was connected to a mains water supply providing appropriate drinking water for staff and children and running water for cleaning.</p> <p>(e) The sanitary facilities in the service were adequately equipped with wash hand basins and toilets for the number of children that will be in attendance. There were two toilets and two wash hand basins available for children’s use within the service. The inspector was informed that the service does not currently provide for children who are not yet toilet trained, however if the occasion were to occur whereby nappy changing facilities would be required these would be installed prior to the child attending.</p>
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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:	<p>(1) There was adequate clear floor space for the work play and movement of the proposed number of children.</p> <p>(2) A clear floor area of 60.582m² was measured in the preschool room which is sufficient to cater for 22 pre-school children attending to avail of the service’s sessional childcare provision and 16 children attending on a part-time basis.</p>
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