

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015DL127

Name of Service Shining Stars Playschool

Address of Service: Frosses, Donegal Town, Co Donegal. F94 P2K4

Email Address: gallaghertracyann@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Tracy Gallagher

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input 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: Change in Service Type from Sessional to Part Time
Change in Hours of Operation from 09:30-12:30 to 08:15-13:15

Proposed Number of Children: 11 Children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in Service Type from Sessional to Part Time
Change in Hours of Operation from 09:30-12:30 to 08:15-13:15

Registered change: Change in Service Type from Sessional to Part Time
Change in Hours of Operation from 09:30-12:30 to 08:15-13:15

Date of Inspection: 0 8 0 8 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: N. McEndoo

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, 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

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Registration Status:	Registered Part-Time & Sessional Service for 11 Children
Date of Registration	22nd October 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).

Description of Service	Shining Stars Playschool is a privately owned and operated pre-school service located in the centre of the village of Frosses in County Donegal. The service is currently registered to provide a pre-school service to children aged between 2 and 6 years and operates from 9.30am to 12.30pm each weekday.
Premises	The service is operated from the ground floor of a terrace building on the main street. There is one preschool room with adjoining sanitary accommodation. Children have daily access to an outdoor play area located at the rear of the premises which is directly accessible from the care room.
Staffing	The registered provider is the named person in charge and works directly with the children on a daily basis. There will be one other staff member employed with in the service.
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, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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)
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

The registered provider is the person in charge and there is a named person available 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 been met

(1) The registered provider is aware of the required adult to children's ratios.

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 been met.

(1)(a)

The service offers a well-resourced, child led and play-based programme that supports all areas of children's development. Indoors, the playroom is divided into distinct interest areas including:

- Home Corner: Equipped with kitchen and dining items to encourage imaginative and social play.
- Construction Area: Features trucks, diggers, and building blocks to promote problem-solving and spatial skills.
- Sensory Play: Water and sand tables to support sensory exploration.
- Arts & Crafts: Materials provided for creative expression.
- Role Play: Dress-up clothes, dolls, and toys foster imaginative and social development.
- Library: A dedicated space to support language and literacy. Soft seating and cushions are also available in this area for resting.
- Tabletop Activities: Puzzles, jigsaws, and various manipulatives are easily accessible on low level shelving to enhance fine motor skills and coordination.

Outdoors, the rear fenced play area includes:

- Physical Play Equipment: Construction zone, sensory tables, playhouse, and an outdoor kitchen to encourage imaginative and cooperative play.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

- Gross Motor Activities: vertical Chalk boards, See-saw, balance beams, child size basketball net, to support physical development and active play.
- (1)(b)
Rest and sleep needs are accommodated using stackable floor beds, which can be set up in the main care room as required. The registered provider demonstrated awareness of the regulatory requirements for sleep provisions, ensuring children's needs are met in a safe and appropriate manner.

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 partially met: The registered provider confirmed that lunches will be supplied by parents in line with the healthy eating policy. A fridge is available in the proposed care room to ensure all perishable items from home are stored correctly. The service will provide morning and afternoon snacks.
Requirement not met:	This requirement has been partially met: The registered provider is required to forward a copy of their healthy eating policy, along with a suitable menu plan to include the food provided by the service.
Response from Provider:	Evidence of a healthy eating policy submitted. Evidence of a menu plan submitted.
Summary Comment:	This requirement has now been 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.

Requirement met:	This requirement has been met: The service demonstrated the following safety measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main entrance is secure with a key, and the key was routinely placed on a hook on the wall, out of the reach of children. Children are brought by their parents to the entrance door on arrival and returned by a staff member on departure. Internal doors are appropriately secure to prevent children accessing an unsafe area. Windows openings are up high out of children's reach. All toys and resources are in good condition and free from pinch or crush points. Storage facilities are inaccessible to the preschool child, and cleaning agents are stored high. Bathrooms are stocked with liquid soap and paper towels for effective hand hygiene, with lidded foot pedal bins for waste.
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

- Water temperatures on the day of inspection were measuring within the allowable parameters at 36.3°C.
- The outdoor area was fully enclosed with a secure fence and locked gate.

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—
- is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
 - is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:	This requirement has been met: (1) One adult employed in the service currently holds an up-to-date certification of completed first aid responder for children training. (2) (a) (b) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available to the preschool children if required, it was stored safely and within easy reach of the adults.
Requirement not met:	This requirement has been partially met: (1) Evidence of completed training in first aid responder for children for the second adult employed in the service to be submitted by the registered provider.
Response from Provider:	Evidence of training in first aid responder (FAR) for children for the second adult employed in the service has been submitted.
Summary Comment:	This requirement has now been met.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - 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) The registered provider demonstrated that monthly fire evacuation drills take place in the service. (b)
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

A record of the maintenance of all firefighting equipment was available with the most recent maintenance date of 12th of March 2025.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed on the walls of the care rooms.

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:

This requirement has been partially met:

- (a) On a visual inspection the service appeared to be of a sound and stable structure. The registered provider confirmed that they were not aware of any defects with the building.
- (b) The building appeared safe and secure with all accessible doors kept locked.
- (c) Adequate lighting was available in the main care room with the provision of a mix of natural and artificial lighting. Openable windows provided adequate light and ventilation. The radiators are positioned up high on the walls, for use during the colder months.
- (d) The service appeared clean and well maintained.
- (e) The care room has sanitary accommodation which consists of one toilet and one wash hand basin for the use of the preschool child. Separately, there is one adult toilet and one wash hand basin available to staff.

Requirement not met:

This requirement has been partially met:

- (d) Evidence of a pest control process being in place is required to be submitted by the registered provider.

Response from Provider:

Evidence of Pest Control Treatment Report submitted.

Summary Comment:

This requirement has now been met.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
- (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met:

(1)

Adequate floor space is provided in the proposed classroom for the free movement of children to work rest and play.

(2)

It is proposed that a maximum of 11 children will attend the service. The children will be a mix of sessional and part-time attendees. The service demonstrated adequate free floor space for this number of children.

The care room measured 34.44m². This room provided adequate floor space for those children wishing to stay on for a Part-time care service.