

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015DS037

**Name of Service:** Choice Childcare Newcastle

**Address of Service:** The Old School House, Main Street, Newcastle, Co Dublin

**Email Address:** choicechildcare123@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Elaine O' Meara

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed change:** Change in number of children to be accommodated  
Change in age profile of children  
Change in hours of operation

**Proposed Number of Children:** 58

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** 55 (based on sanitary accommodation available)

**Registered change:** Change in number of children to be accommodated from 49 to 55

**Date of Inspection:** 0 3 0 8 2 0 2 3

**Inspection undertaken by:** Mary Redmond

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Trinity Building  
IDA Business Park  
Bray, Co Wicklow

### 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 55 Children

**Date of Registration** 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023



Child and Family Agency Act 2013  
Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

Version 05  
Implemented- Aug 2022  
EYIPRIPCOC01-2017

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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>This private childcare service is one of a number of services operated by the registered provider. Full day care, part-time and sessional care is currently provided for a maximum number of forty-nine children aged one to six years of age. The registered provider proposes the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of children to be accommodated: 49 to 58</li> <li>• Age profile of children: 1-6 to 2-6</li> <li>• Hours of operation: 8am – 6pm to 7.30am to 6.30pm</li> </ul>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The premises consists of a former schoolhouse for which the registered provider has a long-term lease and sole use of the building. Three rooms are currently in use for the care of children and it is proposed to repurpose a fourth room in the building to accommodate the increased number of children.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>There is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required. There are eight adults employed to work directly the with children; a manager and a cook are also employed. Adults employed to work with children have attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or qualifications deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.</p>
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess a proposed change of circumstances in the services registration status under the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The inspection focused on three areas; Governance, Safety and the Premises. A triangulation approach was used to assess suitability for the change which included a review of available documentation, discussion with the registered provider and inspection of the premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are documented in the inspection report and submitted to the registration office for consideration of a decision in relation to a change in the registration status of the service.</p>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<p>The inspector would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who facilitated the inspection.</p>

**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.

(1)(a) The registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—*

*(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and*

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has ensured that there will be an adequate number of adults working directly with children. There are currently nine adults employed and it is proposed that no further adults will be required as an excess number of adults are currently employed. This will ensure that the required adult to child ratio is maintained.

(8)(b) Not applicable as this is not a childminding service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a sessional service that operates single handedly.

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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)                  The service now comprises of four rooms which are suitably resourced and laid out to cater for the proposed number of children attending the service. There are child-sized tables and chairs and a variety of age-appropriate equipment and materials which are well organised and easily accessible to children.</p> <p>(1)(b)                  Suitable rest areas have been provided and low beds are available if required.</p> <p>(2)(b)                  Children will have access to an outdoor area on the premises. This area has an artificial grass covering and a variety of play equipment and materials are provided.</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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>There are facilities available for the provision of adequate food and drink for children. The registered provider has employed a cook and the relevant health authority has been notified that food is prepared on the premises.</p>
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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 requirement has been met.  
There is one entry point to the service which is secured to allow staff to control access to and from the premises. The outdoor area is suitably secured.  
There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in the sanitary areas.  
All window blind cords are secured.

### 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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.  
(1) There was evidence that three adults working in the service had valid First Aid Responder (FAR) certification.  
  
(2)(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available. They were clearly identifiable and readily accessible.

### 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 requirement has been met.  
(1)(a) Monthly fire drills will continue to be carried out and a record kept.  
(b) There was a maintenance record for firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms.

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(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed and the fire assembly point is identified.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

Evidence of insurance was available. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place. Continued registration of the service 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:

The requirement has been partially met.

(a) The service operates from an old school building which would appear to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) The point of entry to the service is through a gate in the outdoor area which is locked and adults working in the service control access through this gate. The door to the front of the building is permanently locked and is only used in case of emergency.

The outdoor area was secured to prevent a child leaving the area unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.

(c) The premises benefits from natural light via windows which can be opened in the care rooms; supplemental artificial lighting is also provided if required. There is a gas central heating system and ventilation is available in the sanitary areas.

(d) The premises and its environs were clean and adequately maintained.

(e) There were four toilets and four wash hand basins available for children and adults had access to a toilet and wash hand basin which was also available for adults and children with a disability.

#### Requirement not met:

(e) The facility provided for nappy changing was not adequate. A separate sink was not available to service a nappy changing unit.

#### Response from Provider:

A separate sink has been installed in the disability access toilet to service the nappy changing unit.

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**Summary Comment:**

Photographic evidence has been submitted and reviewed.  
The requirement has been met.

### 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.*

(4) *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:**

The requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated below:

(4) (a)(b)

Room	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
<b>Clear floor space</b>	48.5 sqm	20.05 sqm	50.95 sqm	22.05 sqm
<b>Proposed age range</b>	3 – 6 years	2 – 3 years	2 – 3 years 3 – 6 years	2 – 3 years
<b>Maximum number</b>	21 (FDC) 26 (Sessional)	9 (FDC) 11 (Sessional)	6 (FDC 2-3 years) 16 (FDC 3-6 years) 28 (Sessional)	9 (FDC)

The required floor space for 58 children in the proposed age range attending on a full day care basis is exceeded.