

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015DY042

**Name of Service** Caroline's Playschool

**Address of Service:** 6 Temple view Court, Clarehall, D13, D13R235

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Sarah Breen

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input checked="" 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 of Service Type from Sessional service to a Part time service.  
Change of Hours from 9.15 to 12.45 to 9:00 to 14:00

**Proposed Number of Children:** 16

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** A part time service with operating hours 9am to 2pm

**Registered change:** Change of Service Type from Sessional to Part-Time  
Change in Hours from 09:15 – 12:45 to 09:00 – 14:00

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection undertaken by:** Á Dunne & E Griffin

**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate,  
Child and Family Agency,  
Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Part-time Service for 16 children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2024

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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>	Coroline’s Playschool provides a sessional service located in a residential area of North Dublin. A sessional service is currently provided to children aged between 2 and 6 years old, Monday to Friday operating from 9.15am and 12.45pm, the registered provider has applied to register as a part time service operating from 9-2pm.
<b>Premises</b>	The premises consists of one large bright care room which can be divided by double doors into two rooms. The staff and children have access to sanitary accommodation, and the service has use of a ground floor kitchen and an enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the building.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service employs two staff, to include the registered provider and one childcare staff member. On the day of inspection, the registered provider and one staff member worked directly with the children.
<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 Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, the staff member and children 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named staff member was 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.

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

(a) a registered a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has proposed that 2 adults will be working directly with a maximum of 16 children, aged 2-6 years that may attend for part time care from 9am to 2pm.

(8)(a) The registered provider has ensured that there will always be at least two adults on the premises.

### 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.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or

#### Requirement met:

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

The care room of the service is laid out as follows.

- The room is bright and laid out in areas of interest to include a home area ( play kitchen equipped with pots, pans, dishes, play food, cash register, computer keyboard, dolls with dolls clothes, dolls high chair and dolls push chair) construction play (Jigsaws, wooden puzzles, building blocks, stickle

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	<p>bricks, tubes, cylinders, clicks, stickies, cars, road map rug with trains and tracks ), imaginary play ( dress up, jewelry, mirrors ), sensory play (sensory tray, and playdough with supporting equipment), rest area (cushions, blankets soft wipeable mat with books), art and crafts (paint, paper, glue, pencils, crayons and stencils).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All materials and equipment in the care room are appropriate to the age and development of the child and are stored on low level accessible shelving.</li> <li>• Outdoor area: The enclosed space is surfaced with artificial grass and had materials and games available for the children to engage with as follows: A sand pit with sand and supporting equipment, stepping stones, slide, cones, skittles, water play guttering, child sized seats and table.</li> </ul> <p>(b) The requirement has been met. The rest area consists of a soft mat and cushions. The service has provision made for children that may require to sleep while attending the service.</p> <p>(3)(a) The requirement has been met. The outdoor play area of the service provides the pre-school children attending with access to a safe and secure outdoor play space to play in on a daily basis.</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>The requirement has been met. The service proposes to introduce the following snacks and meals which will facilitate the children attending on a part time care basis. 9am - Breakfast of cereal and milk or toast. 10.30am - Lunch provided by parents 12.30pm – Afternoon snack – proposed Menu in place. The food provided by the service and parents is reflective of the service healthy eating policy. Additional food will be available between meals if a child is hungry, and water is available during meals and throughout the day.</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.

General Safety:

- The service has two locked gates, one with a buzzer leading to the main door which is secured with a locking device accessible by staff, thus preventing a child from exiting unsupervised and to avoid unauthorised access to the service.
- The play materials and equipment in the service were stored on stable-based low level shelving units. The play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the proposed children.
- The tables and chairs in the care room that are used for tabletop activities and mealtimes were the appropriate height for the age of children accommodated in the room.
- Blind cords are secure.
- The emergency exit doors of the service were unobstructed.
- Protective cover over outdoor tap present.

Infection Control:

- All storage of waste, both indoors and outdoors was inaccessible to the children.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, paper towels and closed lid pedal bins were available in the sanitary accommodation.
- Cleaning schedules were in use within the care room, sanitary facilities, and outdoor area.
- A refrigerator is available in the care room to store children’s perishable food items from home on arrival to the service.
- Lidded pedal bins are available for disposal of waste throughout the service.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider is trained to the First Aid Responder (FAR) standard and will be providing direct care each day.

(2)(a)(b) The first aid box is suitably equipped and safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the care room.

### 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) A template was available to record fire drills that take place in the service.

(b) The firefighting equipment and the smoke detection system was last serviced on the 15 November 2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the wall of the care room and the fire assembly sign was displayed clearly at front gate of service.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.  
The service had a quotation available to cover the maximum of 16 children proposed to attend for part time care.  
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:

The requirement has been met.

(a) During the inspection it was observed that the walls, flooring, doors, and windows were suitably maintained, and the inspectors did not identify any safety issues or concerns.

(b) The entrance door to the service was secured with a lock to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to avoid unauthorised access to the service. The outdoor area was enclosed with a wall and fence.

(c)

- The windows in the care room provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required.
- The service is heated by gas with thermostatically controlled wall mounted radiators with a temperature not exceeding 50°C.
- The sanitary facilities are fitted with mechanical ventilation to extract stale air and provide ventilation.
- The care room had openable windows to allow for ventilation and the temperature of the rooms did not exceed the recommended ambient temperature of between 18-22°C.

(d) The care room and sanitary facilities were in a clean condition on the day of inspection. A cleaning schedule was available in the care room and sanitary facilities to ensure regular cleaning of the service.

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	<p>(e)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sanitary facilities in the service comprised of two children’s toilets, and two wash hand basins with mechanical ventilation.</li> <li>• Warm water not exceeding 43°C, liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided in all sanitary facilities. Lidded pedal bins were provided for the disposal of paper hand towels.</li> <li>• A separate sanitary facility is provided for the use by staff to include one toilet and one wash hand basin.</li> </ul>
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### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

<p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.</p> <p>(4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—</p> <p>(a) a sessional pre-school service, and</p> <p>(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).</p>									
<p>Requirement met:</p>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the service.</p> <p>(2)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Room Name</th> <th style="width: 20%;">*Clear Floor Space available as per service</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Floor space required per child</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Floor space available as measured by inspectors</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Care room</td> <td>33 square metres</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part time Care Service 2.35 square metres per child (aged 2 – 3 years.) 2.3 square metres per child (aged 3 – 6 years)</li> <li>• Sessional Care Service 1.818 square metres per child 0 – 6 Years</li> </ul> </td> <td>37.105 square metres</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Room Name	*Clear Floor Space available as per service	Floor space required per child	Floor space available as measured by inspectors	Care room	33 square metres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part time Care Service 2.35 square metres per child (aged 2 – 3 years.) 2.3 square metres per child (aged 3 – 6 years)</li> <li>• Sessional Care Service 1.818 square metres per child 0 – 6 Years</li> </ul>	37.105 square metres
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\*Calculated as per Schedule 7: Minimum Space Requirements.

The space available is sufficient for a maximum of 20 children to attend the service for sessional care and for the proposed maximum of 16 children to attend the service part time care.

(3) The registered provider of a sessional pre-school service has ensured that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

(4)(a) The minimum clear floor space is available for the duration of the sessional service.

(b) The minimum clear floor space is available for a part-time day care service.