

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015DY079

Name of Service Gabriel's Playschool

Address of Service: St Gabriel's Parish Centre
St Gabriel's Road
Clontarf
Dublin 3.
D03 P6F6

Email Address: gabrielsclontarf@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Veronica Yeomans

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional	
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: The service proposes to add an additional part time session to the Fuchsia care room for 22 children aged from 2-6 years of age from 1:00-6:00pm Monday to Friday in an existing care room.

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Twenty two children aged from 2-6 years of age from 1-6pm Monday to Friday in an existing care room

Registered change: Additional Part-Time Session for 22 Children

Date of Inspection:

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Inspection undertaken by: E Hosford

Title: Early Years Inspector

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

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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 Full Day, Part-Time, Sessional Service for 100 Children
Date of Registration	17th August 2024

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	Gabriel's Playschool is a private service located in a parish centre in Clontarf on the north side of Dublin. This service offers sessional, part time and full day care education and care to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age and is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. The service also offers a service to school age children.
Premises	The service operates from four care rooms in a two storey multi-use parish centre. The four care rooms are the Sunflower room, Fuchsia room, Jasmine room and the Lavender room. The service also has use of a large open-foyer, kitchenette, sanitary accommodation areas, office and an outdoor play area featuring a soft poured all-weather surface.
Staffing	To accommodate the additional part time children the registered provider proposes to employ four staff members to work directly with the 22 children aged from 2-6 years of age. All the staff working directly with the children will hold a minimum of a level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or a qualification deemed by the minister to be equivalent.
Methodology	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.

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	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.
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	
<i>(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.</i>	
Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy available as required.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels	
<i>(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.</i>	
<i>(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)— (a) 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.</i>	
Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1) The registered provider has ensured that an adequate number of adults will be working directly with the children attending the service. There will be 4 adults caring for 22 children attending the service from 1-6pm aged from 2-6 years of age. (8)(a) The registered provider will ensure that two adults will be present on the premises during the operation of 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.*
- (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 is bright and spacious with room for the children to expand their activities and games. Defined areas of interest were available with materials and toys accessible to the children and laid out with areas of interest relevant and appropriate to the age profile and development of the children to include.

- Home area with play kitchen and additional supporting equipment such as pots, pans and dishes, construction area with cars, trucks and building blocks, rest area with soft matting and library. Tables and chairs for meals and activities such as jigsaws, arts and crafts and games.

- An enclosed outdoor play area which is surfaced with a poured soft matting and available equipment such as water trays, shredded paper, dried pasta, and lentils which cups, spades, and jugs. Space for games and running was available along with cars and trucks.

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

The care room has areas available to enable the children to take a break when required. The area included floor mats, rugs, cushions, and books. Additional soft matting is available should a child require a break from activities. Individual sheets and cellular blankets are provided for each child.

The service does not provide an overnight pre-school service.

(2)(b) The requirement has been met.

The children attending the care room will have direct access to an enclosed outdoor space to the rear of the service. The area is surfaced with poured soft matting.

(3)(a) An enclosed outdoor space to which the children attending the service have access to daily is provided on the premises.

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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>A healthy eating policy is in operation within the service with the children attending from 1:00-6:00pm being given a hot meal at 1:30-2:00pm which is supplied by an outside catering company. A snack at 3:30pm of yogurt, fruit, pancakes or wraps. A later snack of fruit and yogurts is available at 5:00-5:15pm. Additional food is available if a child is hungry and water is accessible to the children throughout the session.</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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main entrance doors to the service are appropriately monitored and secured with a buzzer system. The system in place adequately secures the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service. • The window openings of the care room are secured with restrictor devices to prevent children from opening. • The play materials and equipment in the care room are stored on stable-based low level shelving units and were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the proposed children. The tables and chairs in the room used for tabletop activities and mealtimes are the appropriate height for the age of children accommodated in the room. • The emergency exit doors of the care room were unobstructed. • The enclosed outdoor area is secured with a high wall and gates, therefore preventing a child from exiting the area and preventing unauthorised access to 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:

- (1) Two staff members have up to date first aid response (FAR) training.
- (2)(a), (b) A suitably equipped and safely stored first aid box is readily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.

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 is available to record fire drills that take place in the service.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service. The firefighting equipment was last serviced in July 2023 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on the 20 April 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the entrance hall and the care 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:

The requirement has been met.

The service has insurance in place to cover the maximum number of 130 children with an expiry date of the 27 March 2025.

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) During the inspection it was observed that the premises and service were of sound and stable structure.

(b) The main entrance doors to the service are appropriately monitored and secured with a buzzer system. The system in place adequately secures the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.

(c) The care room has windows which provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights were fitted with shatter proof coverings.

The service is heated by gas with thermostatically controlled wall mounted radiators in place with a temperature not exceeding 50°C. The temperature of the care room was recorded by the service as 18°C during the inspection.

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	<p>The windows in the care room provided sufficient ventilation. Sanitary facilities had open windows to extract stale air.</p> <p>(e) The sanitary facility had an open window to extract stale air.</p> <p>Warm water and liquid soap were provided in the sanitary facilities. Staff members use a separate sanitary facility.</p>																				
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(e)</p> <p>An inadequate number of sanitary facilities were available in the service to meet the needs of the children attending. As the table below demonstrates.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="486 907 1460 1568"> <thead> <tr> <th>Room</th> <th>Number and age profile of children</th> <th>Sanitary facilities available</th> <th>Sanitary facilities required</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fushcia room</td> <td>22 (2-6 years of age) Part time</td> <td>2 toilets 2 sinks</td> <td>2 toilets 3 sinks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lavender Room</td> <td>7 (2-3 years) Part time</td> <td>1 nappy changing unit.</td> <td>1 nappy changing unit.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jasmine Room</td> <td>22 (3- 4 years) Part day care</td> <td>2 toilets 1 sink</td> <td>2 toilets 2 sinks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunflower Room</td> <td>22 (3- 5 years) Full day care</td> <td>2 toilets 2 sinks</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Room	Number and age profile of children	Sanitary facilities available	Sanitary facilities required	Fushcia room	22 (2-6 years of age) Part time	2 toilets 2 sinks	2 toilets 3 sinks	Lavender Room	7 (2-3 years) Part time	1 nappy changing unit.	1 nappy changing unit.	Jasmine Room	22 (3- 4 years) Part day care	2 toilets 1 sink	2 toilets 2 sinks	Sunflower Room	22 (3- 5 years) Full day care	2 toilets 2 sinks	
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<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>In response the registered provider has stated that additional sinks have been installed in two bathrooms to provide suitable sanitary facilities.</p>																				
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>Supporting evidence has been submitted to the inspectorate to demonstrate that the required number of sanitary facilities are available to meet the needs of the children.</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.

Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—

(4)(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) 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.

(2) The minimum amount of clear floor space is available in the Fuchsia care room as there was 51.82m² available for the proposed 22 children aged from *2-6 years of age attending the service on a part time basis.

**Based on Schedule 7 Minimum Space Requirements Full day care service or part-time day-care service.*

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