

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015DY166

Name of Service Pitter Patter Community Playgroup

Address of Service: Macro Centre, 1 Green Street, Dublin 7, D07X6NR

Email Address: Pitterpattercreche@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Conor Casby

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" 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 Part time care to Full day care
Proposed Number of Children:	17 children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Change in Service type from Part time care to Full day care
Registered change:	Change in Service Type from Part-Time to Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Change in Hours from 09:00 – 13:00 to 09:00 – 17:00

Date of Inspection:	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	4
----------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Inspection undertaken by: Á Dunne
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

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 17 Children
Date of Registration	21 st February 2025

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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	Pitter Patter Community Play Group was established in 2002. The service provides part-time and sessional care to children from 1 to 5 years, operating from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday. The service caters for 34 children with no more than 17 children on the premises at any time and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.
Premises	The service is located on the first floor of the Macro Community Resource Centre on the north side of Dublin City. There is one large care room, a sensory room, a kitchen, an office two children's toilets, one nappy changing area and one staff toilet. The partial outdoor area is located off the care room.
Staffing	The service is operated by the person in charge, three childcare staff and two staff employed under the Community Employment scheme.
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 person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 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 is proposing that five adults will be working 9am to 5pm directly with a maximum of 17 children who are to attend the service on a full time or part time or sessional basis. The person in charge will be available in a supernumerary capacity. The registered provider does not work in the service.

(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.*
- (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*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The service has one large care room and a sensory room in operation on the first floor of the Marco Community centre.

In the care room.

- there are tables and chairs available for the children with defined interest areas for play and facilities for work and eating.
- defined interest areas, such as a play kitchen with supporting equipment, dolls with supporting equipment, construction area with stickle bricks, large nuts and bolts, plastic building bricks, clicks, stickies, wooden blocks, wooden puzzles, arts and crafts and small world play with small characters, cars and trucks and road map rug.
- the equipment is accessible to the children on low level shelving in easily accessible containers.

The Sensory room has soft mat surface and astro grass surface with related toys such as a bubble tube, mirrors, large cuddly toys and an activity wall.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(1)(b) A cosy area is provided with soft seats, soft couches, cushions, floor rug and books. There are two cots with suitable and safe mattresses and one low bed available should a child require sleep. The service does not provide an overnight pre-school.

(2)(b) There is access to a secure partial outdoor area from the care room. The outdoor area has a roof and has an artificial soft tile surface. The outdoor area contains outdoor equipment which included a ball pit with balls, a parachute, a playhouse, a climbing frame with a tunnel and two slides, sensory floor mats, a ride in car, a seesaw, ride on toys, three sand pits.

(3)(a) The children have access to the outdoor space on a daily basis.

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:

The requirement has been met.

A healthy eating policy is in operation within the service. The children attending the full day care and the part time service will be provided with breakfast at 9am on arrival to the service, a hot meal at 11am, a snack at 12.30pm and tea at 3pm by the registered provider. Drinking water is available in the care room and is accessible to the children.

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 partially met.

- The community building has a reception area on the ground floor and then there is a buzzer exit and entrance system on the door of the service on the first floor of the main building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emergency exit doors of the service are unobstructed. • The play materials and equipment in the service are stored on stable 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, to be used for activities and mealtimes, are the appropriate height for the age of children to be accommodated in the room. • All storage of waste both indoors and outdoors is inaccessible to the children. • A system is available for the safe storage of cleaning agents and equipment. • Cleaning schedules are in place and the care room is visually clean on the day of inspection. • The outdoor area is secure to prevent a child from exiting the area.
Requirement not met:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two of the soft seats in the care room, have worn areas and corners, with one seat having foam exposed, leading to a choking risk and poor infection control as the seats cannot be wiped. 2. The two cots were not positioned 50cm apart, leading to poor infection control. 3. A washing machine is located in the sanitary facility is free standing and uncovered, leading to poor infection control.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seats have been removed from the premises and replaced. 2. The two cots are spaced in excess of 50cms apart. 3. A carpenter has been commissioned to provide a suitable covering for the washing machine located in the sanitary facility.
Summary Comment:	Requirement met and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 person in charge and four staff members have certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

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

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 will take place in the service.

(b) A record is available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service. The firefighting equipment was last serviced on 12th June 2024 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on 20 August 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the care rooms and there is a defined fire assembly point in the park beside the service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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 has an adequate insurance statement from the 3 September 2024 to 27 March 2025 to cover 34 children – 17 at each session proposed to attend the service on a part time or full-time basis.

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 is partially 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 buzzer system to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to avoid unauthorised access to the service. The outdoor area was enclosed.

(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 care room and the sensory room has 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.

(e)

- One separate sanitary facility consisting of one toilet and one wash hand basin is provided for use by staff and is located in the sanitary facility of the service.
- There are sufficient sanitary facilities available in the service to accommodate the number and age profile of the children which the Registered Provider proposes to attend.

The sanitary facilities in the service comprised of the following:

Sanitary Facilities available			
Nappy Changing Room		1 Nappy Changing unit with mat	1 wash hand basin
Main Sanitary Room	2 Toilets		2 wash hand basins
Total	2 Toilets	1 Nappy changing unit with mat	3 wash hand basins

One toilet with one wash hand basin is required for every 11 children toilet trained and one nappy changing unit with mat with one wash hand basin is required for every 11 children in nappies.

- Liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided in all sanitary facilities. Lidded pedal bins were provided for the disposal of paper hand towels.

Requirement not met:

(c) There was no mechanical ventilation or windows present or available in the toilets or nappy changing area of the sanitary facility of the service, to extract stale air.

(e) Thermostatically controlled warm water, was not available in the nappy changing sanitary facility of the service used by children the temperature of the water was recorded as follows:

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Wash Hand basin</th> <th>Temperature</th> <th>Time</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Nappy changing sanitary facility</td> <td>49.6 ° C</td> <td>11.30am</td> </tr> </table> <p>exceeding the recommended temperature of 43 °C maximum and a potential risk of scalding a child.</p>	Wash Hand basin	Temperature	Time	Nappy changing sanitary facility	49.6 ° C	11.30am
Wash Hand basin	Temperature	Time					
Nappy changing sanitary facility	49.6 ° C	11.30am					
Response from Provider:	(c) There is an air handling unit positioned to extract air in the nappy changing area. (e) Workplace maintenance team have fixed the problem, and thermostatically controlled water is now available.						
Summary Comment:	Requirement met and will be reviewed on the next inspection.						

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.
- (4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—
(a) 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:	<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) The table below illustrates that the minimum clear floor space is available for children aged from 1- 6 years on a part full day care basis .</p>		
	Room Name	Floor space required per child	Floor space available as measured by inspectors

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	Main Care room	2.8 sqm per child (aged 1 to 2 years) 2.35 sqm per child (aged 2 to 3 years) 2.3 sqm per child (aged 2 to 6 years)	68.7sqm
	Sensory room	2.8 sqm per child (aged 1 to 2 years) 2.35 sqm per child (aged 2 to 3 years) 2.3 sqm per child (aged 2 to 6 years)	9.65sqm

*Calculated as per Schedule 7 Minimum Space Requirements Full day care service.

Based on the information provided by the registered provider, the age profile of the children within the care-room and Sensory room, the clear floor space available may accommodate 34 children – 17 in each session aged from 1 to 6 years of age for part time care or full day care.

(4)(b) The minimum clear floor space is available for a part time and sessional care service.