

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015DY205

Name of Service Suantraí Creche

Address of Service: 62/63 Eccles Street, Dublin 7, D07 YH5R.

Email Address: suantraí@mater.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Suzanne Dempsey

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

Proposed change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 42 to 61 (Extension).
Change in number of staff employed from 14 (as stated on register) to 19.

Proposed Number of Children: 61

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in number of children from 42 to 61 children
Change in number of staff from 14 to 19 staff

Registered change: Change in number of children from 42 to 61 children
Change in number of staff from 14 to 19 staff

Date of Inspection: 2 6 0 9 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: Y Kelly & AM Coyle

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5, The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin, Dublin 15 D15CF9K

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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 Service for 61 Children
Date of Registration	13 th 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	<p>Suantraí Creche is a full day care service located on the north side of Dublin city centre and delivers early childhood care and education to children aged 0 to 6 years of age, to children of parents who work in the Mater Hospital which is located nearby. The service is currently registered to accommodate 42 children and operates from 7.15am to 17.30pm each weekday, with eligible pre-school children facilitated to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9.00am to 12.00pm daily for 38 weeks annually.</p> <p>The service is proposing to move to increase the number of children attending the service from 42 to 61 and to increase the number of staff employed from 14 to 19.</p>
Premises	<p>The service is delivered from the converted basement floor of two neighbouring Georgian residential buildings. The rooms available to the children include Baby Room 1 (0-1 year) Baby Room 2 (1-2 years), Playgroup (2-3 years) and the ECCE Room (2 years 8 months to 5 years). There are cot rooms and nappy changing facilities located off Baby Rooms 1 and 2, and sanitary facilities located off the Playgroup Room for use of the Playgroup and ECCE children. The service kitchen is located off the ECCE room. The 'indoor garden' is a fully sheltered enclosed area located across the back of the premises and there is an enclosed outdoor play area situated on ground level, to the rear of the premises.</p>

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	<p>Following approval of the change in circumstances the service will operate an additional building, which is a newly constructed detached single storey building in the rear garden. It is proposed that there will be three rooms: Playgroup Room (Green Room), Pre-ECCE Room (Yellow Room) and ECCE Room (Blue Room). There is also a changing area and sanitary facilities between the Playgroup and the Pre-ECCE Rooms, sanitary facilities off the ECCE Room, 2 sanitary facilities for adults, accessible sanitary facility, staff room and service kitchen for serving food. An outdoor forest play area is located to the rear and side of the service.</p> <p>Following approval of the change of circumstances the ECCE room and Playgroup group in the main building will move to the new building and these rooms will no longer be in use whilst further renovations are completed. The Baby room 1 and Baby room 2 will continue to operate as normal.</p>
Staffing	<p>A service manager is employed in the service to coordinate the day-to-day operational management of the service in addition to 18 staff members, 16 of whom work directly with the children and 2 staff work in a catering capacity. The registered provider does not work in the service.</p>
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>

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Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff 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	
<i>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—</i>	
<i>(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.</i>	
Requirement met:	(1) (a) The requirement has been met. The service manager is the designated person in charge on a daily basis, and a named person is available to deputise 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>	
Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1) The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6 and would ensure that an adequate number of adults would at all times work directly with the children in the service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play	
<i>(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—</i>	
<i>(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</i>	
<i>(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.</i>	
<i>(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—</i>	

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(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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

- (a) The care rooms were resourced with a broad range of play materials and equipment to facilitate children to initiate and sustain meaningful play activities. Interest areas were clearly defined and included well-resourced home corners, dress up areas, tabletop and small world areas, book corners, construction areas, arts and crafts and mark making areas. The play materials were stored at an accessible level to the pre-school children. A secure outdoor area is located to the rear of the service.
- (b) Rest areas were available in the care rooms to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the day if required. There are three sleep rooms in the service with a total of fifteen standard cots provided for a child aged less than 2 years to sleep in. In addition to these 2 floor beds and a number of appropriate floor mats were available for pre-school children aged over 2 years of age who require to sleep in the service.

- (3) (a) The service has an outdoor play space to the rear of the service and side of the new building which was fully enclosed by a wall. The outdoor play area was observed to be suitable and secure, and no safety hazards were noted on the day of inspection.

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 three-week menu is available in the service. The service provides all meals and snacks for children attending on a full day care basis. Hot meals are cooked in the Mater

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hospital and morning, and afternoon snacks are prepared in the service kitchen by the cook.

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 are no hazards observed by the inspectors that would impact the health, safety or welfare of the children attending the service. Appropriate measures have been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children.

- The external doors, windows and gate to the rear of the building were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- The windows in the care rooms were fitted with restrictive opening devices.
- All furniture and equipment were clean and in good condition and suitable for use by the proposed age groups.
- The heating system for the service was thermostatically controlled to prevent radiators from exceeding the maximum surface temperature of 50°C.
- Thermostatically controlled running water was available at the wash hand basins in the service.
- The fire exits are clearly marked in the service.
- The fire assembly point is clearly marked at the rear of the building.
- The outdoor areas are secure thus preventing a pre-school child from exiting the area and preventing unauthorised access to the service.
- Cleaning agents were inaccessible to children, stored in locked cupboards in the care rooms.

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) There are 6 staff members in the service who hold in-date first aid response (FAR) training.
- (2) (a)(b) First aid boxes were suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions in both the existing building and the new building and are available at all times for the children if necessary.

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 which would be used to record fire drills that would take place monthly at the service. The last fire drill took place on the 29 August 2025.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was commissioned and installed on 30 September 2025 and the Fire Detection and Alarm System was commissioned on the 08 of July 2025.

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(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the hallway of the service.

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.

A current insurance certificate is in place for state indemnity and is valid until 31 March 2026.

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) The premises is a recently constructed purpose-built childcare facility which appears to be in good condition throughout.
- (b) The premises appears safe and was found to be appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years' service. A call bell system is in place at the front door of the service. Access to the newly built extension is by use of a fob.
- (c)

Lighting:

The premises is adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating:

The premises is heated by an air to heat electrical system. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection. The registered provider was aware of the safe sleep ambient temperature range of 16-20°C for children aged under 1 year old and 18-22°C for children aged over 1 year old.

Ventilation:

Ventilation in the care rooms is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents. The internal sanitary accommodation and nappy changing areas are fitted with mechanical ventilation.

(d) The premises is in a clean condition and in a good state of repair.

(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation including nappy changing facilities are available in the service.

In the new extension building the following sanitary accommodation is available;

Sanitary accommodation location	Toilets for staff	Sinks for Staff	Toilets for children	Sinks for children	Nappy changing
Blue Room	0	0	2	2	0
Between Yellow and Green room	0	1	2	3	2

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Staff Sanitary area	2	2	0	0	0
Accessible Sanitary facility	1	1	0	0	0
Total	3	4	4	5	2

In the existing building the following sanitary accommodation is available;

Sanitary accommodation location	Toilets for staff	Sinks for Staff	Toilets for children	Sinks for children	Nappy changing
Baby Room 1	0	0	0	0	1
Baby Room 2	0	0	1	1	1
Total	0	0	1	1	2

- There is a staff sanitary accommodation available upstairs in the existing building.

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.

Requirement met:

- (1) The requirement has been met. There is adequate clear floor space available for the proposed 61 children.

(2) The clear floor space of the ECCE Room (Blue Room) measured 51m² which is sufficient for the proposed 22 children between the age of 3-5 years on a full day care basis.

The clear floor space of the Playgroup (Green Room) measured 36.96 m² which is sufficient for the proposed 12 children between the age of 2-3 years to be cared for in this room on a full day care basis.

The clear floor space of the Pre-ECCE Room (Yellow Room) measured 32.67 m² which is sufficient for the proposed 12 children between the age of 2½ - 3 ½ years to be cared for in this room on a full day care basis.

The clear floor space of Baby Room 1 measured 19.65 m² which provides sufficient space for 5 children between the age of 0-1 years or 7 children between the age of 1-2 years to be cared for in this room on a full day care basis.

The clear floor space of Baby Room 2 measured 29.66 m² which provides sufficient space for 10 children between the age of 1-2 years to be cared for in this room on a full day care basis.