

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015FL059
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Name of Service	Charlies Childcare
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Address of Service:	Malahide United FC, Coast Road, Malahide, Dublin K36 YA97
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Email Address:	ronniec@charlieschildcare.ie
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mr Ronnie Carroll
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change:	The registered provider proposes to increase the number of preschool children attending the service from 66 to 96.
Proposed Number of Children:	96
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	To increase the numbers attending to 94 based on the space available in the new care room (Regulation 30).
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 66 to 94

Date of Inspection:	0	6	1	2	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by:	AM Coyle
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate,
	181-189 Lakeshore Drive,
	Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.

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 94 Children
Date of Registration	19 th December 2023

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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).

Description of Service	<p>Charlies' Childcare is one of ten services which are operated by the registered provider in North Dublin. Preschool children aged between 1 and 6 years of age are accommodated in this service which currently operates between 7:30am and 6 pm Monday to Friday. The state funded Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) is offered to children of eligible age from 9am to 12 midday daily.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to increase the number of children attending the service from 66 to 96.</p>
Premises	<p>Charlies' childcare is located in the clubhouse of Malahide united football club, The Preschool room 1 and Preschool room 2 rooms are located in one section of the building and the Toddler room and Wobbler room are accessed through a separate entrance to the rear of the service. The proposed new Junior Toddler room and Senior Toddler room are located directly behind the service and have a separate entrance.</p> <p>Two separate fully enclosed outdoor areas are available to the children attending the service.</p>
Staffing	<p>The service employs 22 staff members. The registered provider does not work directly with the children attending 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>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, chief operating officer, company director, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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:

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

The service manager was the designated person in charge of the service and a named person 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 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

- (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:

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, shop areas, libraries, construction areas and arts and crafts areas. The play materials were stored at an accessible level to the pre-school children. Two secure outdoor areas are located to the rear and side of the service.
- (b) Rest areas were available in the care rooms with mats, child sized couches cushions provided to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the day if required. Six standard cots are provided in the services sleep room in addition to 2 foldable cots for children aged less than 2 years to sleep in. Stackable beds were available for pre-school children aged over 2 years of age who require to sleep in the service.
- (3)(a) The service has 2 outdoor play spaces to the side and rear of the service which were fully enclosed by fencing. The outdoor play area was observed to be suitable and secure, and no safety hazards were noted on the day of inspection.

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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:	The requirement has been met. The service provides all meals and snacks attending on a full day care basis. A 4-week menu is available in the service.
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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 external doors, windows and outdoor play areas were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years' service. • The play materials were appropriate for the age range of children proposed to attend the individual care rooms. • Thermostatically controlled running water was available at the wash hand basins in the service. Liquid soap and paper towels were available for the children's and staff members' use. • The fire exits are clearly marked in the service. • 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.
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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) There are three staff members in the service who hold in-date first aid response (FAR) training.

(2)(a) First aid boxes were suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions in the care rooms, 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 copy of the monthly fire drills was available in the service.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The firefighting equipment was certified as having been serviced on 10/07/2023 and the fire detection and alarm system on 06/10/2023.

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

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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 proposed registered provider has insurance in place from 25/10/2023 to 27/03/2024 for up to 103 children attending.

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) On visual inspection the premises appears to be structurally sound.

(b) The premises were safe and secure. The entrance doors to the service and the internal door were secured adequately to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.

(c)
Lighting:
The care room in the service has a number of windows which provides the room with natural light. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Appropriate shatter proof coverings are provided on the ceiling lighting. The temperature of the care room was 19.3°C on the day of inspection. There are sufficient windows provided in the care room to achieve adequate ventilation.

Heating:
The premises is heated by means of a combination of gas central heating and wall mounted electrical heaters which are the source of heating in the proposed new care rooms. 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.

Ventilation:
Ventilation in the care rooms is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents.

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	<p>(d) The premises is in a clean condition and in a good state of repair.</p> <p>(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation including nappy changing facilities were available in the service.</p>
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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:	<p>(1)The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(2) The clear floor space of the proposed new Junior Toddler room was 33.84m² This provides sufficient space for 14 children between the age of 2- 3 years to be cared for in this room on a full day care basis.</p> <p>The clear floor space of proposed new Senior Toddler room was 33.84m² which provides sufficient space for 14 children between the age of 2-3 years to be cared for in this room on a full day care basis.</p> <p>The clear floor space of the remaining care rooms in the service is sufficient to accommodate the 66 children that the service is currently registered to accommodate.</p> <p>The clear floor space of the Wobbler room measured 20.4 square metres.</p> <p>The clear floor space of the Toddler room measured 39.8 square metres.</p> <p>The clear floor space of Preschool room 1 room was 42.6 square metres.</p> <p>The clear floor space of Preschool room 2 was 52.6 square metres.</p>
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