

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015FL091

Name of Service: Fairyhill Playschool - Howth Pre-school Playgroup Ltd

Address of Service: Tucketts Lane, Howth, Co. Dublin D13 PW99

Email Address: fairyhillplayschool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Mary Moore

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input 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: Adding an additional service type from sessional to part time & sessional
Change in hours of operation from 9:00 to 12:00 to 9:00 to 1:30pm.

Proposed Number of Children: 20

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change service type to sessional and part-time.
Extend operating hours to 9am to 1.30pm

Registered change: Additional Service Type from Sessional to Part-Time & Sessional
Change in Hours of Operation from 09:00 – 12:00 to 09:00 – 13:30

Date of Inspection:	1	3	1	1	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: AM Coyle

Title: Early years inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 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 Part-Time & Sessional Service for 20 children
Date of Registration	6 th December 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).

Description of Service	Fairyhill Playschool is a community based sessional pre-school service established in this location in 1976. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and caters for children from 2 years of age until their commencement at primary school. The service operates from 9am to 12 midday Monday to Friday.
Premises	Fairyhill Playschool is located in a purpose-built building located directly beside Scoil Mhuire- Howth primary school in the village of Howth, Co Dublin. There is one care room in the service with sanitary facilities located directly beside the care room. An enclosed outdoor area is situated directly outside the care room. The service also has use of the enclosed play area of the adjacent primary school.
Staffing	The service employs 3 staff including the registered provider who works directly with the children attending the service. All staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
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 registered provider, 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. The service has designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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 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

(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

(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 care room was resourced with a broad range of play materials and equipment to facilitate children to initiate and sustain meaningful play activities. The play materials were stored at an accessible level to the pre-school children. A secure outdoor area is located to the side & rear of the service.

(3)(a) The outdoor play area is located to the side & rear of the service and is 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 children will bring their own lunch and snacks with them to the service. A fridge is provided in the service for the storage of perishable items. Potable water is available for the children to drink.
A menu is available for the additional snack that the registered provider will provide to the children who attend on a part time basis.

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.

- The main entrance door leading into the premises is secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised or an unauthorised adult from entering the service.
- There is running hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel to support effective hand hygiene at the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation.
- A fridge is available in the preschool room for the storage of perishable food items.
- Play materials and equipment are observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children proposed to attend the service.
- No trailing flexes, cables or electric items are accessible to the children.
- Medicines and cleaning agents are stored out of the reach of children.

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 partially met.
(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is provided in the service, available at all times for the children if necessary.

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Requirement not met:	A staff member with in-date first aid response (FAR) training is not available in the service. The 3 staff members employed have in date paediatric first aid training only.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider is enrolled in a FAR course, evidence of completion of course received on the 27/11/2024.
Summary Comment:	The registered provider has submitted evidence of first aid response training. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) A copy of the monthly fire drills was available in the service.</p> <p>(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 23/08/2023 and the fire detection and alarm system on 18/07/2024.</p> <p>(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the service.</p>
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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. An insurance certificate confirming insurance for 22 children attending the service at any one time on a part time basis up until 27/03/2025 was available.

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 service is conducted from a room in a detached purpose-built building which appears to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) The service is appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access. The outdoor play area is surfaced with artificial grass and is located to the side of the early years' service. The area is fenced and gated and secured when children are playing outdoors. The primary school's play area which is available for use to the early years' service is also safe and secure.

(c) The premises is adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting. The premises is heated by means of wall mounted electric heaters. Ventilation in the preschool room and the toilet cubicle is provided by means of open-able windows and trickle vents.

(d) The premises is found to be in a clean condition and in good repair.

(e) Suitable and adequate sanitary accommodation is provided for up to 20 pre-school children with 2 toilets and 2 wash-hand basins provided in the sanitary accommodation off the preschool room. Staff have access to the staff toilets in the primary school when necessary. A nappy changing mat is available in the event of if being required.

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement for a maximum number of 20 pre-school children in the proposed service.
The clear floor space in the preschool room measures 54.28 square metres.