

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D:** TU2015FL150

**Name of Service:** Links Childcare

**Address of Service:** Latchford Place, Clonee, Dublin 15, D15 HD63

**Email Address:** gillian@linkschildcare.ie

**Name of Registered Provider:** Deirdre Kelly

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Proposed change:</b>	The service proposes to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the number of children cared for by 13 children, from 96 to 109.</li> <li>Increase the number of staff in the service from 21 to 22.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	Maximum of 109 children aged between 0-6 years.
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	109 children being cared for by 22 staff.
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 96 to 109 Change in number of staff from 21 to 22

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	8	0	8	2	0	2	3
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**Inspection undertaken by:** A. Bradshaw and N. McEndoo

**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Brunel Building, Heuston Quarter, Inchicore, Dublin 8

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

**Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office**

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care Service for 109 children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> September 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Links Childcare is one of 12 services currently operated by the registered provider. Established in 2010, this service provides a full day, part-time, and sessional service. It is currently registered to care for a maximum of 96 children, ranging in age from 0 to 6 years old and is proposing to increase this number by 13 children to 109 children. A school age service is also provided in the afternoon. The service operates from 7.30am to 6.30pm on Monday to Fridays and the service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme which is delivered from 9.30am to 1.00pm.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service is located in a purpose-built premises in a residential area of Clonee, in the west of Co. Dublin. There are six care rooms in the service including the 'activity room'. On the ground floor is the Baby Room (12 to 18 months) and the Wobbler room (18 to 24 months). There are nappy changing facilities located directly off these rooms, and a cot room is located off the Baby Room. There is also a reception area, an office, an activity room, and a service kitchen located on this floor. On the first floor is the Toddler room (2 to 3 years) and two Preschool rooms named Preschool Ash and Preschool Oak which provide care to children from 2 years and 8 months to 5 years old. There are nappy changing facilities and sanitary accommodation available on this floor for children and staff, and a staff room. An enclosed outdoor space is located to the rear of the premises which is partitioned into three separate areas by fencing.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>There are currently 21 staff employed by the service including the person in charge, a deputy person in charge, an assistant manager, and a chef. The registered provider does not work in the service. The service proposes to increase the number of staff from 21 to 22 staff.</p>
<b>Methodology</b>	<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</p>

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	<p>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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspectors wish 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

*(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 has a designated person in charge and a named deputy. The name of the designated person in charge and the deputy designated person are displayed in the hallway.

**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 stated that they would ensure that an adequate number of adults will be working directly with the children attending the service. There will be 22 adults caring for up to 109 children on a full-time basis.

**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*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)(b) The layout of the additional space (previously the activity room) allows children the opportunity and freedom to move around and choose their activity. The rooms have areas of interests defined with the use of furniture. For example, the play materials and space available for the children include: a role play area with dress up

	<p>clothes, a play kitchen with accessories, a library with a variety of books, and an arts and craft station with paints, paper, colouring pencils, and an easel. The table top activities were attractively displayed and available to the children on low shelving. Examples of the table top equipment available are threading, construction, and connecting materials.</p> <p>The equipment and toys are stored on low level shelving and accessible to the children. There are sufficient tables and chairs to accommodate children to sit and eat their snack or work independently with tabletop materials.</p> <p>The library is away from the main play area and is furnished with a large soft mat where children rest.</p> <p>(3)(a) The room has direct access to a large garden in an enclosed courtyard. This has a soft surface. There is a solid climbing structure with varying levels of challenge for the children.</p>
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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 registered provider described that this room will be used for sessional children who bring their own snack for the ECCE session. The service has a healthy eating policy which included information for parents regarding suggestions for healthy snacks. This policy also stated that drinking water is available for the children throughout the day. Each room has a fridge to store any perishable food.

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 to the service is appropriately monitored. The electronically controlled system adequately secures the front of the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service. There is a buzzer system to unlock the doors. The garden exits are also secured.
- The windows in the room have visibility strips and are positioned at a high level and have restrictors installed.
- The tables and chairs in the care room, which will be used for tabletop activities and mealtimes, are at the appropriate height for the age of the children to be accommodated in the room.
- All storage of waste both indoors and outdoors, and cleaning materials, are inaccessible to the children.
- All cables and flexes are adequately secured to reduce the potential risks to a child.
- Shelving and storage units are stable and secure.
- There is warm water, soap, and warm air dryers in the children’s sanitary area to ensure effective hand washing is carried out.
- A cleaning checklist was available in the room.
- The low presses under the sink unit in the room have locks on the doors preventing children’s access.
- The two waste bins in the care room are pedal operated.
- There is a sluice room in the building to store cleaning products and equipment.

**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) Two staff members are trained to the First Aid Responder level and are rostered to cover the opening hours of the service and are thereby available to the children at all times.
- (2) (a)(b) The First Aid box is stored in a press in the care room with conspicuous signage on the press door.

**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 firefighting 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 recent fire drills over the past three months are available.
- (1)(b) A record is available of the number, type, and maintenance of the fire extinguishers and smoke detection system of the service. Firefighting equipment was serviced in January 2023 and the smoke alarms were serviced on the 21 March 2023.

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(4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the room and the assembly points are displayed in the front and rear of the building.

### 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 to cover a maximum of 110 children on a full-time basis. The expiry date on the insurance certificate is the 27 March 2024.

### 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) During the inspection it was observed that the walls, flooring, doors, and windows are suitably maintained.

(b) The main entrance door to the service is managed with a buzzer system by a staff member. The system in place adequately secures the entrance to the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the premises.

	<p>(c) The care room has openable windows which provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting which is covered and recessed and is flush with the ceiling. The room has a digital thermometer to support the maintenance of the optimal temperature for those using the room. The toilet cubicles have mechanical ventilation systems in addition to openable windows to provide adequate ventilation.</p> <p>(d) The care room was in a clean condition on the day of inspection. A cleaning schedule is available in the care room to ensure a record of a regular cleaning.</p> <p>(e) The care room has a sanitary area adjacent to it with two toilets and two wash hand basins. There are nappy changing facilities available in the building if required. Staff have access to the building's staff toilets. Warm water, liquid soap, and a warm air dryer were provided in the sanitary facilities.</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:**

The requirement has been met.

- (1) The clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play, and movement of children attending the service is adequate for the additional 13 full-time preschool children proposed.
- (2)

Room	Activity Room
Clear Floor Space	32.52sqm

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Age Range	2 – 6 years
Proposed number of children	13 (full time) or 18 (sessional)

The above table illustrates that the minimum clear floor space is available for children based on their age range and attending the service on a full-time or sessional basis.