

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015FL268

**Name of Service** Skerries Creche

**Address of Service:** Ballygossan Close, Golf Links Road, Skerries, Co. Dublin

**Email Address:** maryellenox@mail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Mary Farrell

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

**Proposed change:** Change of service address from 28 Balbriggan Street, Skerries, Dublin, K34FY71 to Ballygossan Close, Golf Links Road, Skerries, Co. Dublin.  
Change in the number of children from 30 to 58.  
Change in number of staff employed from 10 to 16 staff

**Proposed Number of Children:** 58

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Change of service address  
Change in number of children from 30 to a maximum of 57(Max 54 full day/part-time) children.  
Change in number of staff employed from 10 to 16 staff

**Registered change:** Change of service address  
Change in number of children from 30 to a maximum of 57 (Max 54 full day/part-time) children.  
Change in number of staff employed from 10 to 16 staff

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	2	0	8	2	0	2	5
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**Inspection undertaken by:** Y Kelly & AM Coyle

**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Unit 4/5, The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corp Park, Ballycoolin, Dublin 15 D15CF9K

### Rationale for Inspection:

#### Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 57(Max 54 Full Day, Part-time) Children
Date of Registration	19 <sup>th</sup> August 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Skerries Creche is an early years service that was established in Skerries, Co. Dublin in 1999 and is registered to accommodate pre-school children from 0 to 6 years of age on a sessional, part-time and full day care basis. The service is currently registered to accommodate 30 children and operates from 7.30am to 6.00pm 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. The service is proposing to move to a new service on the outskirts of Skerries.
<b>Premises</b>	Following approved change in circumstances the service will operate from a two-storey purpose-built property on the outskirts of Skerries village. On the ground floor there is one large care room with dividing doors enabling the room to be used as one large room or two separate care rooms. It is proposed that these rooms are used for the care of wobbler/toddler age group of children. On the first floor of the service the Preschool room 1 and Preschool room 2. One separate sleep room is available on the ground floor of the service. The service kitchen and staff room are located on the first floor. An outdoor play area is located to the rear of the service.
<b>Staffing</b>	A service manager is employed in the service to coordinate the day-to-day operational management of the service in addition to 16 staff members all of whom work directly with the children.
<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 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 and service manager 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:

(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

(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

(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, dress up areas, tabletop and small world areas, book corners, construction and block 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.

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(b) Rest areas were available in the care rooms with child sized sofas and mats 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 for a child aged less than 2 years to sleep in. In addition to this, 13 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 which was fully enclosed by railings. 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 weekly menu is available in the service. The service provides all meals and snacks for children attending on a full day care basis. There is a fridge provided in the kitchen for the storage of perishable food items.

### 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 side gate 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.

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- The fire assembly points are clearly marked to the side 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—
- is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
  - is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There are 2 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 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—
- any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
  - 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.

(b) The firefighting equipment was commissioned and installed on the 9 May 2025, and the Fire Detection and Alarm System was commissioned on the 13 of August 2025.

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

A current insurance certificate is in place for up to 35 children to attend the service on a full day basis, valid until 27 March 2026.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the registration team prior to this inspection. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered provider compliance with regulation 28.

### 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. The side entrance leading to the rear of the service is fitted with a gate which is secured.

(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.

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 units.

(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.

- On the ground floor corridor directly across from the Wobbler/Toddler room there is one toilet and one wash hand basin in addition to a nappy changing facility.
- One toilet and one wash hand basin are located in the sanitary accommodation adjoining the sleep room.
- On the first floor corridor directly across from the Preschool room 1, there is one toilet, and one wash hand basin provided in the sanitary accommodation. A sink is available in the care room.
- On the first floor corridor directly across from the Preschool room 2, there are two separate sanitary areas each containing one toilet and one hand wash basin. A sink is available in the care room.
- Two staff toilets are provided in the service, one toilet on the ground floor and one toilet on the first floor.

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 children.

(2) The clear floor space of the Wobbler/Toddler room 1 measured 24.95 m<sup>2</sup> which provides sufficient space for 9 children between the age of 1-2 years or 7 children aged 0-1 years to be cared for in this room on a full day care basis. All children currently attending are aged over 1 year.

The clear floor space of the Wobbler/Toddler room 2 measured 31.45 m<sup>2</sup> which provides sufficient space for 13 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 Preschool room 1 measured 24.5 m<sup>2</sup> which provides sufficient space for 10 children between the age of 3-5 years to be cared for in this room on a full day care basis or 13 children between the age of 2.5-6 years to be cared for in this room on a sessional basis.

The clear floor space of the Preschool room 2: area 1 measured 42.10 m<sup>2</sup> and area 2 measured 15.24 m<sup>2</sup> which provides sufficient space for 22 children between the age of 2.5-6 years on a sessional basis and aged 3-6 years on a full day care basis. It is intended that both of these areas will be used by all of the preschool children attending Preschool room 2.