

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015FL327

Name of Service Tír na nÓg Huntstown

Address of Service: 26 Huntstown Lawn, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin. D15 AW02

Email Address: Tirn9622@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Veronica Baker

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

Proposed change: Change in number of care rooms: 4 care rooms amalgamated **to** 2 large care rooms.

Proposed Number of Children: 30

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in number of care rooms: 4 care rooms amalgamated **to** 2 large care rooms.

Registered change: Change in number of care rooms: 4 care rooms amalgamated **to** 2 large care rooms.

Date of Inspection:	1	6	1	2	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: N McEndoo

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, 180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin.

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day & Part-Time Service for 30 Children
Date of Registration	19th January 2026

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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	Tir na nÓg Childcare and Montessori is one of two private services owned by the registered provider which provides full day and part-time care to children aged between 2 and 6 years. The service operates from 7.30 am and 6.00pm, Monday to Friday, a school age service is also provided. The premises is a two-storey semi-detached house.
Premises	There are two care rooms, a kitchen, sanitary facilities and an office. One care room is situated on the ground floor, and the second care room is located upstairs. There is a secure outdoor play area available to the children to the rear of the house with an artificial grass surface.
Staffing	On the day of inspection, there were eight adults present to include the registered provider and the deputy person in charge. Six adults were working directly with the children including one adult employed under the Access Inclusion Model and one adult available to provide cover across the rooms. The registered provider and person in charge are available to provide support where needed and also manage oversight of the service together.
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</p>

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes 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:	This requirement has been met. (1) (a) The registered provider has an appointed person in charge and there is a named person available to deputise as required.
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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:	This requirement has been met (1) The registered provider is aware of the required adult to children's ratios.
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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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The service offers a well-resourced, child led and play-based programme that supports all areas of children's development.

Indoors, the playroom is divided into distinct interest areas including:

- Home Corner: Equipped with kitchen and dining items to encourage imaginative and social play.
- Construction Area: Features trucks, diggers, and building blocks to promote problem-solving and spatial skills.
- Arts & Crafts: Materials provided for creative expression.
- Role Play: Dress-up clothes, dolls, and toys foster imaginative and social development.
- Library: A dedicated space to support language and literacy. Soft seating and cushions are also available in this area for resting.
- Tabletop Activities: Puzzles, jigsaws, and various manipulatives are easily accessible on low level shelving to enhance fine motor skills and coordination.

Outdoors, the rear play area is a large open garden, with artificial grass and is suitable for use in all weathers. Play equipment is stored when not in use.

(1)(b)

Rest needs are child led and currently accommodated using a cosy corner in each of the rooms, blankets and pillows are availed of by children to snuggle into when they require. Currently no children are enrolled that require a daily nap, stackable beds are available should there be a need to accommodate a regular naptime. The registered

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provider demonstrated awareness of the regulatory requirements for sleep provisions, ensuring children's needs are met in a safe and appropriate manner.

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:

This requirement has been met.

The registered provider confirmed that food is supplied by an external catering company and heated on site by staff. All perishable food is stored in the fridge. There was a comprehensive menu plan in place with alternatives provided on the day where required. The services offer breakfast, two hot meals and two snacks per day. Water and milk are also available to the children.

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:

This requirement has been partially met:

The service demonstrated the following safety measures:

- The main entrance was secured on arrival to the service; a buzzer system is in place with staff controlling entry and exit from the premises. Children are brought by their parents to the entrance door on arrival and returned by a staff member on departure.
- Internal doors to the kitchen area are appropriately secure to prevent children accessing an unsafe area.
- Window openings are out of children's reach.
- All toys and resources are in good condition and free from pinch or crush points.
- Storage facilities are inaccessible to the preschool child, and cleaning agents are stored separately.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bathrooms are stocked with liquid soap and paper towels for effective hand hygiene, with lidded foot pedal bins for waste. Water temperatures on the day of inspection were measuring within the allowable parameters at 38.3°C. <p>The outdoor area was fully enclosed.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>This requirement has not been met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There was no visibility strip on glass doors leading to the rear garden which presents a safety risk to children. Loose pallets in the rear garden posed a safety risk to children. A screw in one pallet in the garden was protruding which could present as a safety risk to children.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility strips have been stuck to the glass doors Loose pallets have been removed. Loose pallets have been removed.
Summary Comment:	<p>This requirement has now been met.</p>

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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) Three adults employed in the service currently holds an up-to-date certification of completed first aid responder for children training with expiry dates ranging from September 2026 to November 2026. The remaining staff members are trained in basic paediatric first aid.

(2) (a) (b)

There were suitably equipped first aid boxes available to the preschool children if required, they were stored safely and within easy reach of the adults.

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:

(a)

The registered provider demonstrated that monthly fire evacuation drills take place in the service, the most recent taken place on 28 November 2025.

(b)

A record of the maintenance of all firefighting equipment was available with the most recent maintenance date of 12 June 2025. A record for the fire detection system was available with most the recent maintenance dated recorded as 24 June 2025.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed on the walls of the care rooms.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

The registered provider demonstrated that the preschool service has adequate insurance in place for 35 preschool children in a full day care service.

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:

This requirement has been met:

(a) On a visual inspection the service appeared to be of a sound and stable structure. The registered provider confirmed that they were not aware of any defects with the building.

(b) The building appeared safe and secure with all accessible doors kept locked.

(c) Adequate lighting was available in the main care room with the provision of a mix of natural and artificial lighting. Openable windows provided adequate light and ventilation. A heating system is available and was working on the day of inspection and, for use during the colder months.

(d) The service appeared clean and well maintained. Evidence of a regular pest control process being in place was present on the day of inspection.

(e) The required ratio for sanitary facilities when full day care is provided is one sink, one toilet and one nappy changing facility to every ten preschool children, with one toilet and sink to every eight staff members.

The service meets this requirement at present.

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	Toilets	Sinks	Nappy facility
Downstairs	1	2	0
Upstairs	2	2	1
Staff	1	1	

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:

This requirement has been met:

(1)

Adequate floor space is provided in the proposed classroom for the free movement of children to work rest and play.

(2)

The downstairs care room measured 36.47m².

The upstairs care room measured at measured 34.25m².

It is proposed that a maximum of 30 children will attend the service. The children will be a mix of full day and part-time care attendees.

The service demonstrated adequate free floor space for this number of children.