

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015FL333

Name of Service Treehouse Childcare

Address of Service: Ballisk Court, Donabate, Co Dublin K36 FF62

Email Address: donabate@treehouse.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Aileen O'Reilly

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" 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: To increase the number of children being accommodated in the service from 52 up to 60 children in total (to be accommodated in the existing rooms).

Proposed Number of Children: 60

Recommended Change Following Inspection: The application to increase to 60 children accommodated in the service can be approved.

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 52 to 60

Date of Inspection: 1 9 0 3 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: S. Taaffe

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 60 Children
Date of Registration	8 th April 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	Treehouse Childcare is one of two privately owned early years services operated by the registered provider in the Fingal area of north county Dublin. This full day care service is currently registered to cater for a maximum of 52 pre-school children aged 1 to 5 years on a sessional, part-time and full day care basis. School aged children are not accommodated in the service. The service operates from 7.30am to 6.00pm each weekday for 51 weeks per year, closing for one week over Christmas, and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme each morning from 9.00am to 12.00midday for 38 weeks during term-time each year.
Premises	The service is conducted from a two-story purpose-built premises with four care rooms provided, namely the Toddler Room, ECCE Room 1 and ECCE Room 2 which are located on the ground floor of the service and the Pre-school Room which is located on the first floor. There are 2 designated sleep rooms in the service, one located in a partitioned section of the Toddler Room, and one adjoining the Pre-school Room.
Staffing	There are 14 staff employed in this service which consist of 13 staff members who work directly with the children (including the service manager who provides support across the care rooms when required) and a chef. The company's operations manager, who works in the service on a weekly basis and more often if needed to cover staff absences, was present in the service on the day of inspection. The registered provider was not present in the service during the inspection and is not based in this service.
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 operations manager, service manager, staff 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:

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

The service manager is the designated person in charge and there is a named person 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) During the fit for purpose inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. The registered provider and staff members are 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 is at all times working directly with the proposed increased number of children in the service.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensures that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times when the service is in operation.

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) The four care rooms are resourced with a suitable range of play materials and equipment to facilitate children to initiate and sustain meaningful play activities. Interest areas are clearly defined and include home corners, shop areas, libraries, construction areas and arts and crafts areas. The play materials and equipment are stored at an accessible level to the children. Ride on toys, sit-on rocking toys, a sit-on digger, a wheelbarrow, logs, a lidded sandpit, a large free-standing frame with coloured discs, a well-resourced outdoor kitchen, a low-level slide and a plastic playhouse are amongst the play equipment provided to facilitate play activities in the outdoors.

(b) A section of the Toddler Room is partitioned off creating a semi-enclosed sleep room containing 8 standard cots. Depending on the sleep needs of the children in the Toddler Room and the times when they are sleeping, a number of these cots are set up either in the enclosed sleep room or within the Toddler Room. A further 5 cots are provided in a second sleep room adjoining the Pre-school Room on the first floor. The operations manager and service manager are aware of national safe sleep best practice guidelines. Twelve stackable beds are available for children aged 2 years and older who sleep in the service, and these are set up in the Pre-school Room after lunch. A rest area is available in each care room with soft matting, cushions and soft toys provided close to the libraries to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the day if required.

(3)(a) The outdoor play area is fully enclosed by the outer walls of the premises and by high boundary walls. The outdoor play area is observed to be suitable and secure, and no safety hazards are noted. The area is surfaced in artificial grass and the gate is secured, preventing a child from leaving the service or an adult from gaining access to the premises.

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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 supplies all meals and snacks to the children attending the service, cooked and prepared on site by the full-time chef in the kitchen located on the ground floor. A two-week menu is on display. Drinking water is available and accessible to the children in the individual care rooms.
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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:	The requirement has been met. The inspector did not identify any hazards that would impact the health, safety or welfare of the children attending the service. It appears that appropriate measures have been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children. Examples of these measures include the premises and outdoor play area being appropriately secured, the provision of thermostatically controlled warm water in the sanitary accommodation and at the low-level sinks in the care rooms, and medication and cleaning agents being stored safely out of the reach of children. A safety gate is in place at the top of the stairs to reduce the likelihood of a child gaining access to the stairs unsupervised.
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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) The operations manager and the service manager are aware of the requirement to ensure that a person with in-date first aid response (FAR) training is at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. Training certificates are
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available to show that 8 full-time staff members hold in-date first aid response (FAR) training and their scheduled attendance in the service's staff roster confirms that a suitably trained first aider is at all times immediately available to the children when the service is in operation.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid boxes available in the service are suitably equipped and stored in conspicuous locations on the premises and are available for the children in the event of an emergency.

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 record is maintained of the fire drills conducted in the service on a monthly basis.

(b) Records are available showing that the firefighting equipment was serviced in December 2023 and the smoke detection system is certified as having been serviced on 16/03/2024.

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

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 is available which shows that there is insurance cover in place for up to 60 pre-school children attending the service on a full day care basis, valid until 31/08/2024.

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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 appears to be in sound condition and appropriately maintained.

(b) The service is appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access. A doorbell is in place to allow parents or visitors notify staff members of their arrival to the service and glass panels at the front door allow staff members to view callers in advance of facilitating their entry to the premises, if appropriate.

The outdoor play area is surrounded by the service walls and high walls with a latched gate to secure the area when children are playing outdoors.

(c)

Lighting

- The premises is adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating

- The service is heated by means of a central heating system.

Ventilation

- Ventilation in the care rooms is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents. Mechanical ventilation is provided in the sanitary accommodation, with some windows.

(d) The premises is in a clean condition and appears to be in a satisfactory state of repair.

(e) The service is equipped with adequate sanitary facilities for the increased proposed total number of 60 children.

- There are 2 toilets and 1 wash hand basin provided in the sanitary accommodation adjoining ECCE Room 1, in addition to a second low-level wash hand basin in the care room directly adjacent to the door leading into this sanitary accommodation. There are a further 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins provided in the sanitary accommodation directly adjoining ECCE Room 2. These 4 toilets and 4 wash hand basins provided on the premises

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for the children attending are sufficient to meet the needs of up to 44 toilet-trained children.

- One nappy changing mat and 1 accompanying wash hand basin is provided in the nappy changing room on the first floor which is sufficient to meet the needs of up to 11 children in nappies. Additionally, there are 2 nappy changing mats and 1 accompanying wash hand basin provided in the nappy changing room on the ground floor, which is sufficient to meet the needs of a further 11 children in nappies.
- Two separate toilets and two wash hand basins are provided on the first floor for use by staff members.

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) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement of the 60 pre-school children proposed to attend the service.

- The clear floor space in the Toddler Room measured 27.4 square metres. This meets the space requirements for 9 pre-school children aged 1 – 2 years being accommodated in this room on a part-time or on a full day care basis. Alternatively this meets the space requirements for 8 children aged 1 – 2 years and 2 children aged 2 – 3 years being accommodated in this room on a part-time or on a full day care basis.
- The clear floor space in ECCE Room 1 measured 35.47 square metres. This meets the space requirements for 15 pre-school children aged 2 -3 years being accommodated in this room on a part-time or on a full day care basis.
- The clear floor ECCE Room 2 measured 58.73 square metres. This meets the space requirements for 22 children aged 3 - 6 years proposed to be accommodated in this room on a part-time or on a full day care basis.
- The clear floor space in the Pre-school Room measured 39.46 square metres. This meets the space requirements for 16 pre-school children aged 2 -3 years being accommodated in this room on a part-time or on a full day care basis.