

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015GY017

Name of Service Ballinasloe Community Childcare Group

Address of Service: M6 Business Park, Poolboy, Ballinasloe, Co Galway, H53X9X0

Email Address: bsloecommunitycreche@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Joanne Costello Jordan

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| 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"/> |

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| Proposed change: | Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 55 to 65 children. |
| Proposed Number of Children: | 65 children |
| Recommended Change Following Inspection: | Baby room: 5 children Toddler room: 12 children Junior preschool: 24 children Preschool: 24 children Total= 65 children |
| Registered change: | Change in Number of Children from 55 to 65 children |

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| Date of Inspection: | 1 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
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Inspection undertaken by: B Lavin

Title: Early Years Inspector

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| Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: | Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, 2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo. |
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| Rationale for Inspection: |
| Proposed Change of Circumstance |

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

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| Registration Status: | Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 65 children |
| Date of Registration | 29th November 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). |

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| Description of Service | This community operated pre-school is in an industrial development in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. This service offers a full day care and part time care provision from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes and sessional care programmes are also offered from 9.30hrs to 12.30hrs and 14.30hrs to 17.30hrs, Monday to Friday. The service is registered for pre-school children aged 1 to 6 years of age. |
| Premises | There are 2 ground floor childcare rooms namely the Baby room and Toddler room, and 2 first floor rooms namely the Younger Pre-school and Senior Pre-school. There are 2 designated sleep rooms - 1 adjacent to the Baby room with 3 cots, and 1 adjacent to the Toddler room with 3 cots. Stackable beds are available for older children's sleep provision. The premise has its own kitchen, where children's main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There is a designated dining room used by the children for their mealtimes. There is a secure outdoor play area to the side of the premises. |

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| Staffing | <p>The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises daily. There is a designated person in charge and named person able to deputise. There are 18 staff members working in the premises. 14 staff hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualification Framework. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. There is a designated chef and 2 cleaners.</p> |
| 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 | <p>The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p> |

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 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:

(1) It is proposed that there will be adequate numbers of staff working directly with the preschool children.

Baby playroom: 5 children attending the playroom with 1 staff provided.

Toddler playroom: 12 children attending with 2 staff provided.

Junior Preschool playroom: 24 children attending the playroom with 3 staff provided.

Senior Preschool Playroom: 24 children attending the with 3 staff provided.

The person in charge and additional float staff member will be supernumerary and act as childcare relief.

It is proposed that adequate numbers of adults will be working with the children at all times during service provision.

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.

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| <p>Requirement met:</p> | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>Adequate and suitable play facilities are in place in the four playrooms to cater for children from 1 to 6 years. The playrooms are laid out with a number of defined interest areas. Play resources in the Baby room includes baskets of toys, a mirror for children to see their reflection, a bar to assist a child to pull themselves up to a standing position, a play gym, a tunnel, wipeable foam matting and wipeable foam shapes. The play equipment in the Toddler room has a selection of toys including figurines, a library area, a slide, dolls, buggies, transport vehicles, puzzles and table-top activities. The Junior and Senior Preschool rooms are resourced with a variety of play equipment including a home area, construction toys, dress-up outfits, arts and crafts, figurines, blocks of various sizes, jigsaws and puzzles. All equipment and materials in the playrooms throughout the service are stored on low level shelving units to facilitate a child led learning environment. Low level tables and chairs were provided in all playrooms.</p> <p>(1)(b)</p> <p>In each of the playrooms, the children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size couches, matting and large wipeable cushions in designated cosy areas. There were 2 sleep rooms with 3 cots in the Baby sleep room and 3 cots in the Toddler sleep room. The service had 15 stackable beds for any older child attending the service requiring sleep.</p> <p>(3)(a)</p> <p>Suitable secure outdoor play areas were provided for the children in the service. An enclosed outdoor space was located to the side of the building. The outdoor play area was covered predominantly by an impact absorbing surface. There was also an artificial grass section and a bark section.</p> <p>Play equipment and materials provided in the outdoor area supported a range of physically energetic activities and play experiences.</p> |
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| | <p>There was a large all weather sheltered area. Items included slides, horses with carts, push cars, rockers, picnic tables, a 3-seater rotating spinner roundabout, an activity centre with slide/steps, 2 sand units, tractors, scooters, storage boxes, counters, a carousel, pins, a basketball hoop, a sports box, swings, and bicycles. There was a mud kitchen, picnic tables, rackets, paddles, balls, dividers and planting pots.</p> <p>There was a large wooden shed for storage of equipment, on the day of inspection items included bicycles with passenger seats, puzzles, netting, bouncing balls and themed boxes stacked on shelves.</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.

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| Requirement met: | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that healthy snacks, breakfast and a nutritious main meal for the children is provided by the service. The staff advised the inspector that water and milk is available in the service and the children are to bring drinks from home in individually identifiable containers. |
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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.

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| Requirement met: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a buzzer access system into the main entrance front door. Safe storage out of reach of children was provided for cleaning products and equipment. Secure storage for medication is available in the service. |
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- The staff only areas, kitchen, storage areas and adult sanitary areas were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre school child.
- The toys and equipment in use in the playrooms are in good condition and free from hazard.
- The stairway had a non-slip floor covering and handrails in place.
- The outdoor area was secured so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised person could not enter the area.
- The heating system in the sanitary area was thermostatically controlled to ensure the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing without the risk of scalding the children was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Refrigerators are provided for the storage of perishable food items.
- Aprons and gloves are provided for use.
- Records of regular pest control services are available.
- The outdoor waste storage bins are inaccessible to children in the service.

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 service provided certification that adequate numbers of adults have undertaken the required first aid training to ensure that a person trained in first aid is immediately available to the children at all times.
- (2) (a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes are available in easily accessible positions in the playrooms

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- (b) The first aid equipment is available at all times to the children attending the service.

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) Templates are available for the written recording of any fire drills that take place in the premises. A record of monthly fire drills undertaken in the service were maintained, the most recent dated 17th October 2024.
 - (b) Records in writing are available in the service of the number, type and installation record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The records show that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms/fire detection system were serviced and tested on the 24th of October 2024.
- (4)
- Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed in conspicuous positions in the playrooms.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

Insurance is in place for a maximum of 65 children at any one time attending full day care service from the 21st of October 2024 until the 27 March 2025.

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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:

- (a) No obvious defects were observed in the building structure.
- (b) The main entrance door at the front of the service to the downstairs playrooms was secured with a keypad and buzzer system to prevent unauthorised entry to the area and children from leaving unnoticed.
- (c) **Lighting:**
There is both natural light from windows and artificial lighting provided in the premises which is adequate and suitable for the provision of a childcare service. The light fittings in the playrooms and in the sanitary areas are encased with protective covers.
Heating:
Oil fuel central heating is in place with heating provided from radiators.
Ventilation:
The playrooms and sleep room are ventilated by openable windows. Sanitary units are ventilated by openable windows or mechanical ventilation systems.
- (d) The playrooms, sanitary areas and sleep room were clean and maintained in a satisfactory condition. Cleaning schedules were in place in the service.
- (e) Sanitary facilities were provided in the service as follows:
Adult sanitary accommodation

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| | <p>Two sanitary units with one toilet and one wash hand basin were provided for the staff downstairs and one sanitary unit with one toilet and wash hand basin upstairs beside the staff room were available for staff.</p> <p>Child sanitary accommodation</p> <p>Sanitary units with two toilets and two wash hand basins are provided in each care room. Each care room also contains a nappy changing unit.</p> <p>Liquid soap, paper hand towels are provided for hygienic hand washing and drying with foot pedal operated bins provided for the disposal of waste. The hot water temperatures of the taps in all the sanitary units' wash hand basins in the building was recorded below 43°C on the day of the inspection.</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.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
- (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*

| Requirement met: | <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space in the playrooms is provided for the proposed 65 children as follows:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Playroom name:</th> <th>Clear floor space:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Toddler playroom</td> <td>37 square meters</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Junior Preschool Playroom</td> <td>67 square metres</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Playroom name: | Clear floor space: | Toddler playroom | 37 square meters | Junior Preschool Playroom | 67 square metres |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Playroom name: | Clear floor space: | | | | | | |
| Toddler playroom | 37 square meters | | | | | | |
| Junior Preschool Playroom | 67 square metres | | | | | | |

(2) The minimum amount of clear floor space for full day care services as specified under the regulation in respect of the ages range of children is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

| Playroom | Age Range | Clear Floor space | Proposed number of children |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Toddler | 2-3 years | 2.35square metres | 12 |
| Junior Preschool | 3 - 4 years | 2.3square metres | 24 |

(4) The minimum of 1.818 square metres is available for children in playrooms where sessional pre-school services and full day care service are to be contemporaneously provided.