

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015GY032

Name of Service Blath Beag Creche

Address of Service: 111 Clochog,
Oranmore,
Co. Galway.
H91 RH99.

Email Address: blathbeagcreche@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms. Aoife O Driscoll.

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

Proposed change: Increase maximum number of children catered for from 20 preschool children to 22 preschool children.

Proposed Number of Children: A maximum of 22 preschool children at any given time.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: From a maximum of 20 preschool children at any given time to a maximum of 22 preschool children at any given time.

Registered change: Change in Number of Children from 20 to 22 Children

Date of Inspection:	1	3	0	8	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: S. Meehan.

Title: Early Years Inspector.

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: TUSLA - Child and Family Agency,
Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate,
Clinical & Administration Building,
Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor),
Merlin Park, Galway City.

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Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day & Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	17th August 2024

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	The service operates out of a private residential area called Clochog, in the village of Oranmore, Co. Galway. The service offers full day care, from 7.30 am to 6 pm and caters for children aged 0 to 6 years of age.
Premises	There are a total of 3 playrooms which include the Baby room, Wobbler room, and Toddler room. The premises have its own kitchen, the meals are cooked by a service chef in another pre-school owned by the registered provider and delivered daily. There are two designated sleep rooms with three cots adjacent to the Baby sleep room and four cots adjacent to the Wobbler room. Stackable beds are available for the older pre-school children, for rest and sleep. The service has a secure outdoor play area to the rear of the building.
Staffing	There are 7 adults, including the registered provider, working in the service with preschool children.
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 registered provider, person in charge, 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 registered provider proposed and will ensure that there will be a designated person in charge and 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.

Requirement met:

(1) It is proposed that the minimum ratio of adults to children will be maintained which will be reflected in the staff roster.

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.

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

(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:

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

Adequate space has been provided for children to play indoors and outdoors. There is a well-resourced playroom divided into areas of interest which includes a small world area, creative writing space, selection of jigsaws and puzzles, Montessori equipment, an arts area with arts equipment, drawing paper and bibs for messy play. There was also a water and sand play area, transport area,

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	<p>farm area, block building area and natural materials section. There was a fully equipped household area with a variety of household items. The playrooms also had a soft seated area with a selection of books.</p> <p>(b) Suitable soft seating was available for children to rest during the day are available for children. There were 2 designated sleep rooms with a total of 7 cots and 9 stackable beds for children over 2 years of age.</p> <p>(2) (b) The service has access to an outdoor play area. There was a selection of play and sports equipment for children to play with during the session.</p> <p>(3) (a) Arrangements are in place for daily outdoor activities regardless of weather and the outdoor area is fenced, secured and has an impact absorbing surface.</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:	<p>(22)</p> <p>The registered provider demonstrated that adequate, nutritious, varied food and drink will be available for the proposed number of children attending the pre-school service. The service had a healthy eating policy in place.</p> <p>The registered provider stated that the hot lunches and snacks are prepared in another service and delivered daily for children. The registered provider had a three-week menu plan demonstrating the meals and snacks provided in the service. Perishable items are stored in the service fridge.</p>
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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:	<p>GENERAL SAFETY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main entrance door into the service was secured to prevent unauthorised entry by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child. • Toys and play equipment were safe and in good condition in the playrooms. • Fire doors were unobstructed to ensure the safe evacuation in the event of a fire or other emergency. • The utility storage area was secured to prevent preschool children having access to chemicals or cleaning agents. • All flexes and cables were out of reach of children or secured. • The cords of the blinds were secured, fastened and therefore posed no risk to preschool children. • There was a service fridge for the storage of perishable items from children's.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed registered provider had a risk assessment system. A system of checking toys and equipment was in place i.e., that they were not broken, clean and maintained in a good state of repair. There were no pits or ponds to cause any risk of danger to preschool children. The proposed registered provider had a daily record of attendance book to be kept for all the children attending the playroom. <p>INFECTION CONTROL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a cleaning schedule available and a sample cleaning record for the playrooms, sanitary areas, and outdoor play areas. Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing with a temperature reading of less than 43°C. Foot pedal bins were used in the sanitary areas and the playrooms. Nappy changing facilities 2 in total were clean and a leak-proof self-sealing bin was available for the disposal of soiled nappies. <p>SAFE SLEEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was child size soft seating in a cosy corner in the playrooms where children could rest or relax if they so choose. There were 2 designated sleep rooms with 7 cots for children under 2 years of age and 9 stackable beds for children over 2 years of age.
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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—
- 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:

- (1) Two adults working in the service held an up-to-date record of First Aid Response training.
- (2)
- A first aid box was suitably equipped and stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the service kitchen for use in the event of an emergency.
 - The first aid box is available for preschool children during the operation of the service.

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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:	(1)(a) The last fire drill was documented, available and dated 02/08/2024. (b) Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment was 06/08/2024 and the smoke alarm system was serviced on the 26/07/2023. (4) A fire action notice was available demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire and the location of the fire point at the front of the building.
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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:	Adequate insurance was available for the proposed 22 preschool children attending on a full day care basis which expires on the 27/03/2025.
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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) The service consists of 3 playrooms, sanitary facilities, office and play area which appears to be maintained in good condition. (b) The indoor and outdoor areas are safe and secure. The outdoor area is at the rear of the building. (c) Adequate lighting is provided by florescent lights protected by diffusers. The playrooms are well lit by natural light. The windows are openable, the room and sanitary areas are well ventilated. The service has thermostatically controlled heating system. (d) Cleaning equipment is safely stored and secured away from the main play area. The building is well maintained, clean and presentable.
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	(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided. The registered provider stated that only children in nappies attend the service and then move to another service owned by the registered provider. The service had 2 designated nappy changing areas with 2 wash hand basins to accommodate the 22 proposed preschool children. There was also 1 adult sanitary area with 1 wash hand basin.
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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:	<p>(1) The service proposes to operate a full day care service: The proposed change in circumstance to the full day care playrooms measured: Playroom 1: Baby room measured 11 metres squared which allows children aged (0 to 1) years at 3.5 square meters a maximum of 3 children, (1 to 2) years at 2.8 square meters a maximum of 4 children.</p> <p>Playroom 2: Wobbler room measured 20 meters squared which allows children aged (1 to 2) years at 2.8 square meters a maximum of 7 children.</p> <p>Playroom 3: Toddler room measured 33 square meters which allows children aged (2 to 3) years at 2.35 square meters a maximum of 14 children. Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed playrooms for the free movement of children to work and play.</p> <p>(2) The minimum space regulatory requirement is met for the proposed change from 20 preschool children to 22 preschool children on a full day care basis.</p>
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