

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015GY074

Name of Service Corton Community Childcare

Address of Service: Cortoon, Tuam, Co. Galway. H54 CP74

Email Address: cortonlavalleycreche@yahoo.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Michael McCabe

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 preschool children from 70 to 90 preschool children.
Increase number of staff from 12 to 14.

Proposed Number of Children: Increase maximum number to 90 preschool children.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Increase maximum number to 90 preschool children.

Registered change: Increase maximum number of preschool children from 70 to 90 preschool children.
Increase number of staff from 15 to 14.

Date of Inspection:	0	3	0	9	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.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status: Registered for Full Day Care service for 90 children.

Date of Registration 20th September 2024

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



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 early years' service is located on its own grounds adjacent to the community hall in a rural setting of Cortoon, Co. Galway and was first established in 2007. The service offers the option of full day care and part time care provision from 8.00 am to 6:15 pm and an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme from 09.30 am to 12.30 pm, from Monday to Friday.
Premises	There are 7 playrooms – the Baby room, Toddler room, Wobbler room, ECCE room 1 and ECCE room 2 and 2 proposed playrooms on the first floor. The service has 2 designated sleep rooms - 1 adjacent to the Baby Wobbler room with 3 cots and opposite the ECCE 1 room there are 3 cots for children. Additionally, stackable beds are available for children over 2 years of age requiring sleep. The pre-school children have access to secure outdoor play areas to the rear of the premises for play activities, exploration and fresh air.
Staffing	The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises on the day of inspection. There was a total of 15 adults working in the service which includes a manager, chef, administrator and 13 of these were working directly with 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</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	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 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:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met, as the registered provider has ensured that the service will have a named designated person in charge and a named deputy who can 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)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

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. A documented staff roster was available.

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.*

Requirement met:

- (1) (a) Adequate and suitable facilities will be offered for play in the playrooms and in the outdoor play area of the service.
- The playrooms are laid out with defined interest areas. The registered provider intends to develop these interest areas further depending on the child’s interests and emerging needs.
- The registered provider advised that play equipment and materials that were specific to the preschool children attending the playrooms would be freely available and accessible to these children. Additional equipment and materials will be rotated on a theme basis.
- The playroom environment supported each child’s learning, development, and wellbeing as -
- The indoor playrooms were comfortable, clean, visually pleasing, and inviting and laid out to accommodate the needs of the children and adult staff member in the service.
 - The playrooms had various interest areas. Equipment, toys, and materials were at children's level for them to be fully accessible to the children, visually and physically.

	<p>(b) Adequate facilities for rest were provided in the playrooms, it has a soft seating area with a couch and matting to allow children to rest and relax when required. Children over 2 years of age had access to stackable beds and linen. Two designated sleep rooms were available for children under 2 years of age with 6 standard cots.</p> <p>(2)(b) The registered provider had documentary evidence of risk assessment and ensured that the proposed designated outdoor play areas. The outdoor play areas are maintained, suitable, safe, and secure.</p> <p>The surface area has a grass, concrete and impact absorbing surface and is surrounded by fencing.</p> <p>There is an adequate amount of defined interest areas with a sheltered area in the outdoor play areas.</p> <p>(3)(a) The registered provider advised that all preschool children attending the service will play outside daily. There is a designated outdoor storage area for toys and equipment.</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:

- The service has a healthy eating policy in place.
- The service had a sample 3-week menu plan which is suitable balance and varied.
- Fridges are available for the storage of perishable items.
- Water is available in the playrooms and during outdoor play.
- The hot meals are prepared in the service kitchen daily.

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:

GENERAL SAFETY:

- The main entrance door into the pre-school were 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.
- The temperature in the playroom were maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Fire doors were unobstructed to ensure the safe evacuation in the event of a fire or other emergency.
- There was designated storage areas which were 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 and fastened and therefore posed no risk to preschool children.
- There was a fridge for the storage of perishable items from children’s lunch boxes for their snack times.
- The 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 service had a daily record of attendance book to be kept for all the children attending the playrooms.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- There was a cleaning schedule available and a sample cleaning record for the playroom, sanitary area, and outdoor play area.
- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>SAFE SLEEP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was child size soft seating where children could rest or relax if they so choose. Stackable beds 21 in total were available for children over the age of 2 years of age. Two designated sleep rooms with 6 standard cots were available for children under 2 years of age. Physical sleep checks were available on the childcare application and in line with safe sleep best practice. The temperature in the designated sleep rooms was maintained between 18°C to 20°C.
Requirement not met:	<p>General Safety</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The 2 fire doors in the new extension were not alarmed and one of these leads directly onto the road which may pose as a safety hazard for a preschool child. <p>INFECTION CONTROL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Leak proof self-sealing nappy changing bins were not provided in the 3 nappy changing areas which may pose as a risk of cross infection for a preschool child.
Response from Provider:	<p>The registered provider stated in her response on the 16/09/2024 that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The fire doors have now been fitted with an alarm system to protect the safety of preschool children. Three self-sealing, leak proof, pedal bins have now been purchased to reduce the risk of cross infection.
Summary Comment:	<p>1. & 2. Documented evidence was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate to confirm that the non-compliances have now been addressed. The Early Years Inspector has reviewed the documentation submitted and has deemed that the service has met the requirements.</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 person in charge and 7 other staff members had evidence of current first aid responder for children qualification.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was readily available and was stored in an easily accessible position in the service.
- (b) The first aid box is available for preschool children.

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 firefighting 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) Arrangements were in place to record fire drills on a monthly basis.
 - (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file.
- The firefighting equipment was professionally serviced on the 20/12/2023 and smoke fire detection system was professionally checked on the 20/12/2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 quote was available for 90 children in the 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:

The requirement has been met

- (a) From a visual inspection the service appeared to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The indoor and outdoor play areas were safe and secure.
 - The main door was secured into the service.
 - Restrictive access devices were fitted on the playroom’s windows.
- (c) There is natural light throughout the building and openable windows.
 - There were artificial covered ceiling lights in the playroom, corridors and sanitary areas.
 - The heating system had a thermostatically controlled to ensure the Playrooms temperatures remains within the recommended temperature of between 18°C and 22°C.
 - Documentary evidence indicated that the heating system was last serviced annually.
- (d) In the playroom, play and work equipment was new, clean and in good state of repair.
 - Cleaning products were safely stored in an inaccessible area away from the playrooms.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There was a cleaning schedule and cleaning checklist for the playrooms, sanitary areas, and outdoor areas. – The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. – The service had a rodent proofing system in place. <p>(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There are 6 designated toilets with 6 wash hand basins in the sanitary areas. There were pedal bins in the sanitary area. – There were 3 nappy changing areas with a wash hand basin. <p>There were 2 designated adult toilets that were inaccessible to the preschool children. Foot pedal bins were provided in the sanitary areas.</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.

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:</p> <p>Playroom 1: Baby room measured 22 metres squared which allows children aged (0 to 1) years at 3.5 square meters a maximum of 6 children, (1 to 2) years at 2.8 square meters a maximum of 8 children.</p> <p>Playroom 2: Wobbler room measured 35 meters squared which allows children aged (1 to 2) years at 2.8 square meters a maximum of 13 children. (2 to 3) years at 2.35 square meters a maximum of 15 children.</p> <p>Playroom 3: Toddler room measured 17 square meters which allows children aged (2 to 3) years at 2.3 square meters a maximum of 10 children.</p> <p>Playroom 4: ECCE 2 measured 19 square meters which allows children aged</p>
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(3 to 6) years at 1.818 square meters a maximum of 10 children on a sessional basis.
 (2 to 3) years at 2.35 square meters a maximum of 8 children on a full day care basis.
 (3 to 6) years at 2.3 square meters a maximum of 8 children on a full day care basis.

Playroom 5: Porta Cabin

ECCE 1 measured 45 square meters which allows children aged (3 to 6) years at 1.818 square meters a maximum of 22 children on a sessional basis.
 (2 to 3) years at 2.35 square meters a maximum of 19 children on a full day care basis.
 (3 to 6) years at 2.3 square meters a maximum of 20 children on a full day care basis.

Playroom 6: First Floor

Room 1 measured 78 square meters which allows children aged (2 to 6) years at 1.818 square meters a maximum of 22 children on a sessional basis.
 (2 to 3) years at 2.35 square meters a maximum of 22 children on a full day care basis.
 (3 to 6) years at 2.3 square meters a maximum of 22 children on a full day care basis.

Playroom 7:

Playroom 2 measured 40 square meters which allows children aged (2 to 6) years at 1.818 square meters a maximum of 22 children on a sessional basis.
 (2 to 3) years at 2.35 square meters a maximum of 17 children.
 (3 to 6) years at 2.3 square meters a maximum of 17 children on a full day care basis.

Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed playrooms for the free movement of children to work and play.

(2) The minimum space regulatory requirement is met for the proposed change from 70 preschool children to 90 preschool children on a full day care basis.