

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015GY098

Name of Service Galway Steiner Childcare

Address of Service: Na Blátha Craige, Clybaun Road, Knocknacarra, Co. Galway, H91 C5D4.

Email Address: galwaysteiner@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Shane O' Connor

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input 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: Adding an Additional Service Type from Sessional to a Part time & Sessional.

Proposed Number of Children: 22 (no change)

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Adding an Additional Service Type from Sessional to a Part time & Sessional Service.

Registered change: Change from Sessional to Part Time & Sessional.

Date of Inspection:	1	5	0	5	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: F. Nic Dhonnacha

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.

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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 Part Time / Sessional Service for 22 Children.
Date of Registration	13 th June 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	Galway Steiner Childcare is located in Clybaun Road, Knocknacarra in Galway city. The early years' service currently offers an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), and sessional care from 9.30hrs to 13.00hrs Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. It is proposed the service will offer a part time care programme from 9.00hrs to 14.00hrs. The service caters for children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The preschool proposes to promote child-initiated play while keeping the Steiner pedagogy, the cultivation of children's imagination, creativity and inquisitive thought to enhance their developmental needs. The curriculum focuses on 'experiential education', allowing children to learn by example with opportunities for imaginative play. The programme emphasises seasonal festivals drawn from a variety of traditions.
Premises	The pre-school consists of 1 large Playroom which is divided into two areas. A quiet rest area with soft seating and matting is available for children to rest, relax or opt out of an activity if they choose to. Additionally, 3 foldable mats and two mattresses will be available for the sleep provision of any child attending on a part time care basis. The preschool has a kitchen and will be used to prepare, store, and cook food for the children. The staff advised of their proposal to offer the children attending the part time service 2 meals and 2 snacks, with 1 hot meal included. The garden room is used for storage of all-weather rain gear, wellie boots and outdoor equipment, brushes, child size shovels, wheelbarrows and play materials. The

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	children will have access to a secure outdoor area to the back of the premises for play, exploration and adventures.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider is supernumerary and will not be on the premises on a daily basis. There will be a deputy person in charge. There will be 2 staff excluding the registered provider working directly with the children. All 2 staff hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.
Methodology	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. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and person in charge 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 proposed service has a named designated person in charge and a named person, 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) The minimum ratio of adults to children will be maintained.
 The registered provider proposes that when a maximum of 22 pre-school children attend on a sessional basis, between 3 to 6 years of age, they will be cared for by 2 staff, in the proposed playroom.
 It is proposed that when children attend the preschool on part time service, the adult/child ratio of 1 adult to 8 children will be maintained as per the regulations.

(8)(b)
 Not applicable, as the pre-school is not a child-minding service.

(c)
 Not applicable, the registered provider does not intend to operate the service single handed. There will be 2 staff working in the pre-school premises at all times.

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*
 - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

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<p>Requirement met:</p>	<p>(1)(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate and suitable facilities will be provided in the proposed playroom. • The playroom had a good range of developmentally appropriate toys, equipment, and play materials suitable for the preschool children and the number of children that will attend the service. • Suitable sized tables and chairs were provided in the playroom for the preschool children. The registered provider intends to develop these interest areas further depending on the child’s interests and emerging needs and on a seasonal basis. The proposed playroom was comfortable, clean, visually pleasing, and inviting and had been laid out to accommodate the needs of the children and staff in the service. • The proposed playroom had various interest areas that were fully accessible to the children, both visually and physically. • Items in the proposed playroom included toys and materials that were sourced from simple, natural materials such as wood, wool, paper and natural fibres that lend themselves to imaginative play. The playroom had clearly defined special interest areas. The environment was visually pleasing allowing children to think for themselves and extend their learning. Topics of interest were at children’s eye level for example visual aids and artwork. A wooden kitchen and child size cooker with real life crockery and utensils. A creative area including arts and craft materials, paints, brushes, markers, pencils and paper and musical instruments. An exploration area, with a rocking horse, train tracks, animals, real world items, and small world toys. An imaginative area with a wooden dolls house and figurines. A library with a selection of book. • The outdoor play area was at the back of the premises. The area was secured by gates, surrounding walls and covered with an impact-absorbing surface. There were logs, a mud kitchen, a covered sand/bark pit (with utensils buckets, sieves and spades), tyres, wheelbarrows, crates, a wooden house, flowers, planter boxes, bird feeders, birdhouses, a water well/ barrels, a fairy garden and a bug hotel/insect garden.
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(b)

- The proposed playroom had designated soft seating area. The children had access to relaxation area which consisted of a selection of beanbags, rugs, cushions, sheets, and blankets to provide an opportunity for a child to rest and relax or opt out of an activity if he/she wishes to do so.
- Additionally, there were 3 foldable sleep mats and 2 mattresses available for the proposed part time children, requiring sleep provision.

(2)(b)

- To the rear of the pre-school premises there was an outdoor play area that was suitable, safe, and secure.

(3)(a) &(b) The registered provider advised that all the children attending the pre-school service will have daily access to the designated outdoor play area.

- The outdoor area was covered with a combination of paving, an impact absorbing surface and concrete. The area was secured with fencing and a gate. There was a selection of play equipment and materials proposed for the outdoor play area. Outdoor items included a mud kitchen, a planting area, tyres, a sand box area, a wooden house area, a water barrel pumping station area.
- The proposed registered provider advised that additional outdoor play equipment and materials will be stored in the garden room and rotated as necessary.

(4) Not applicable, as the pre-school proposes to operate as a full day care service.

(5) Not applicable, as the pre-school proposes to operate as a full day care service.

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.
- The registered provider is proposing that children attending the service on a part time day care will have 2 meals and 2 snacks, with a hot meal supplied by the preschool service to all children sessional or part time. Parents and guardians will provide extra food for the part time children’s main meal.
- The registered provider will ensure that each meal and snack will have 2-3 food groups included as per best practice guidelines.
- The registered provider has advised there is a supply of food in a pantry press, for any child requiring additional food.
- Drinks of milk and water will be offered for each child’s meal / snack time.
- A drinks table will be available in the playroom to allow the children the opportunity to self-service their drinks as they wish.
- Perishable items from the children’s lunch boxes and bags, will be stored in the service fridge.

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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:

GENERAL SAFETY:

The requirement has been met.

- Doors were secured or had a system for security to prevent an unauthorised person having access to children and ensuring children could not exit the service unsupervised.
- Emergency doors were unobstructed throughout the building.
- 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.
- All flexes and cables were out of reach of children and were secured.
- Storage areas were inaccessible and appropriately secure to prevent pre-school children having access to chemicals or cleaning agents.
- There were no pits or ponds to cause any risk of hazards to pre-school children.
- There was a record maintained of the most recent service and installation of a new boiler heating system dated 7/06/2023.
- A risk assessment system for checking the safety / suitability of toys, equipment and materials were in place i.e., that they weren't broken, and were maintained, in a good state of repair was available.
- The proposed person in charge advised that daily attendance records for the start and finishing time for all proposed children attending the service will be maintained.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.

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- A supply of tissues was readily available in the indoor playroom and in the outdoor play area.
- Waste disposal in the sanitary areas and playroom were stored in foot pedalled lidded bins and thereby inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- The playroom was well ventilated with two openable double doors and electronically controlled high windows if required.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of the reach of the children in a designated storage areas within the playroom, and in the sanitary accommodations.
- There were cleaning schedules available and sample cleaning records for the proposed playroom, sanitary areas, and outdoor play area were presented for inspection.

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) Two of the proposed staff had a first aid responder course. The registered provider proposes that a staff member with first aid training will always be available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) There was a large first aid box and 2 small first aid bags suitably equipped, readily available and stored in an easily accessible position.

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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) There was a fire drill record and proposed plans for monthly fire drills.

(b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire fighting equipment with the annual certificate dated 29/11/2023.

- The smoke and fire detection alarms on the premises had the last annual service date of 7/12/2023.

(4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire 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. The service had insurance for a part time service with a maximum of 22 preschool children with an expiry date 27/03/2025.

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 premises was of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The indoor and outdoor play areas were safe and secure. There was a secure system at the main entrance door into the preschool with a gate outside the entrance.
- (c)
 - In the proposed playroom, there were electronically controlled openable windows and two full-size double glass doors. Additionally, there were covered ceiling lights.
 - The playroom was well ventilated by means of openable windows and doors.
 - The central heating was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the playroom stayed within the recommended temperature of between 18°C and 22°C.
- (d)
 - The proposed play materials, and work equipment were clean and in good repair.
 - Cleaning equipment was safely stored in secure cupboards and inaccessible to the pre-school children. There were proposed cleaning schedules presented for the sessional and part time care service.

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(e)

- Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.
- The pre-school service had a total of two designated children's toilets and two designated children's wash hand basins.
- There was 1 designated adult toilet with a wash hand basin.
- Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels were within easy access to a pre-school child.
- Foot pedal lidded bins were provided in the sanitary areas.

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.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child 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).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed playroom for the free movement of children to work and play.

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- (2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children.
- (3) The registered provider will ensure a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child attending the sessional service to a maximum of 22 children.
- (4)(a)(b) The measurement of the proposed playroom is 52.864 square meters thus, ensuring
- a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service to a maximum of 22 children.
 - A minimum of 2.35 square meters of clear floor space will be available for children aged 2 to 3 years, proposing to attend the part time service to a maximum of 22 children.
 - A minimum of 2.3 square metres of clear floor space will be available for children aged 3 to 6 years, proposing to attend the part time service to a maximum of 23 children.
- (5) Not applicable, as this preschool proposes to operate a part time care pre-school service.