

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D:	TU2015GY163							
Name of Service:	Mountbellew Community Childcare Group							
Address of Service:	Mountbellew Community Childcare Centre Mountbellew Co. Galway.							
Email Address:	childrenmountbellew@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Provider:	Ms Denise Flanagan							
Name of Designated Person in Charge:	Ms Teresa McCormack							
Type of Proposed Service:	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed change to service:	New additional building adjacent to outdoor play area Increase from 50 to 60 children							
Proposed Number of Children:	Proposed increase to the number of children attending the service from 50 to 60							
Registered Change:	60 children New additional building							
Date of Inspection:	Day	Month		Year				
	2	4	0	8	2	0	2	0
Inspection undertaken by:	Ms H Heagney							
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, Co. Galway.							

Rationale for Inspection :

Proposed Change of Circumstance	New building adjacent to outdoor play area. Proposed increase in the number of children attending the service from 50 to 60.
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Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Panel

Registration Status:	Registered change to 60 children using an additional building
Conditions If Applicable	N/A
Date of Registration	28 th August 2020

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	This community pre-school was established in 2008. The service offers full day care and part time care provision from 7.30hrs to 18.30hrs for children aged between 0 and 6 years from Monday to Friday. Additionally, the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes and sessional care programmes operate from 9.30hrs to 12.30hrs. The service proposes to cater for a maximum number of 60 pre-school children at any one time. A child centred play based preschool curriculum focusing on emerging interests is provided.
Premises	<p>This purpose built ground floor preschool is situated in the town of Mountbellew, Co. Galway.</p> <p>The preschool service currently operates with 3 playrooms namely the 'Duckling room' for children aged 0 to 2 years, the 'Monkey room' for children aged 2 to 3 years and the 'Panda room' for children attending full day care, aged 3 to 5 years.</p> <p>An additional building with 2 playrooms, a kitchenette and sanitary accommodation has been built</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The 'Giraffe' room proposes to accommodate 22 children, aged 2.5 years to 5 years attending Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes and sessional care programmes from 9.30am to 12.30am with room access for school age children for the remainder of the day. – The second room namely 'the Den' will be exclusively for school-aged children aged from 5 to 12 years of age attending the service breakfast club and afterschool care programme. <p>There are 2 designated sleep rooms with 7 cots and 14 stackable beds. There are designated staff rooms, an office, a kitchen and kitchenette.</p>
Staffing	The Registered Provider and designated Person in Charge were on the premises on the day of the inspection. A total of 15 adults work in the premises. The 14 adults, who work directly with the children, all hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5. The adults have documentary evidence of on-going training and education. An additional adult works in the service kitchen, preparing, cooking and serving meals and snacks.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced Focused 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 three themes; Governance, 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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a</p>

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	decision in relation to the service receiving registration.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment	
<i>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—</i>	
<i>(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.</i>	
Requirement met:	(a) The requirement has been met as the Registered Provider has ensured that the service has a named designated person in charge and a named deputy who can deputise as required.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels	
<i>(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.</i>	
<i>(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—</i>	
<i>(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</i>	
<i>(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 o 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.</i>	
Requirement met:	<p>(1) The minimum ratio of adults to children will be maintained. The Registered Provider proposes that there will be a maximum of 22 pre-school children, aged 2 years and 6 months to 6 years being cared for by 3 adults in the new 'Giraffe' playroom.</p> <p>(8)(b) Not applicable, this service is not a child minding service. (c) Not applicable, this service does not intend to operate a single handed sessional service; as 2 adults are working in the service at all times while the preschool is operating.</p>

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

Requirement met:

- (1)
- (a) The national registration office has been provided with a plan with regard to the building layout.
- Adequate and suitable facilities are provided for play indoors in the ‘Giraffe’ playroom, which was currently 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 while complying with public health measures.
- On the day of inspection, play equipment was inviting and easily accessible in the ‘Giraffe’ playroom and consisted of dolls, paints, pencils, puzzles, transport vehicles, small world items, cubes, blocks, pins, connectors, animals, suckers, sensory basins for sand, water, pasta and rice and various utensils. There was also a kitchen and an office with real world items.
- The Registered Provider advised that play equipment and materials that were specific to the children attending the room / pod would be freely available and accessible to these children.
- (b) The ‘Giraffe’ playroom currently had a soft seating area with a child size couches, matting and washable cushions to allow children to rest and relax when

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	<p>required.</p> <p>(2) There was a number of outdoor play areas that were suitable, safe and secure.</p> <p>(3) The Registered Provider advised that all preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a designated 'pod' in one of the outdoor play areas. The designated outdoor space 'pod' for the children attending the Giraffe playroom consisted of an impact absorbing surface with tyres, bicycles, pull and push toys, goalposts, an activity centre with climbing frames / slide, boxes of toys, a construction 'quarry', swings, planting boxes and painted wall murals. Additional play materials and equipment was stored in a concrete shed and rotated on a seasonal / public health basis.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable, as the preschool operates as a full day care service.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable, as the preschool operates as a full day care service.</p>
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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>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>There is evidence of the policy on healthy eating.</p> <p>Healthy eating is promoted within the service by ongoing staff training, visual aids and adherence to best practice guidelines.</p> <p>The service has a 3-week allergen menu for parents and guardians to view.</p> <p>Food is cooked by a designated chef in the service kitchen.</p> <p>Nutritious meals and snacks are served at regular times, but there is flexibility.</p> <p>Clean and safe drinking water 'at drinks stations' is available and accessible to children at all times.</p> <p>There is a large fridge in 'Giraffe' playroom for the safe storage of perishable foodstuffs for the child's snack time.</p> <p>The Registered Provider advised the inspector of a safe system where all food and drinks brought from the child's home will be identifiable to the child.</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>The requirement has been met</p> <p>The main external door was secured to prevent the public having access to children and ensuring children could not exit the service unsupervised.</p> <p>Emergency doors were unobstructed throughout the building.</p> <p>Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.</p> <p>All flexes and cables were out of reach of children or secured.</p> <p>The cords of the blinds were inaccessible, secured and therefore posed no risk to preschool children.</p> <p>Windows were fitted with restrictive access devices safety system.</p> <p>The glass panel doors in the 'Giraffe' room had visibility strips as a safety precaution.</p> <p>The registered provider had a large fridge in the 'Giraffe' playroom for the storage of perishable items from children's lunch boxes.</p> <p>The temperature of the playroom was thermostatically controlled and maintained between 18°C and 22°C.</p> <p>Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels. Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43° C to facilitate hygienic hand washing without risk of scalding the children was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing. The water temperature reading in the 'Giraffe' playroom was 28.5 °C on the day of inspection.</p> <p>A supply of hand sanitiser was available at the main entrance to the building and at stations in the childcare rooms and the outdoor play area.</p> <p>There was a cleaning schedule available and a sample cleaning record.</p> <p>The doors into the kitchen, office, utility room, staff toilet and storage areas had a system of security and were thereby inaccessible to the children.</p> <p>All cleaning agents and equipment were stored inaccessible and out of children's reach.</p> <p>The manager completed a daily risk assessment.</p> <p>The staff clearly identified to the inspector the drop off and collection procedures for children.</p> <p>There were no pits or ponds in the outdoor area to cause any risk of danger to preschool children.</p> <p>The service had a risk assessment system for the checking toys and equipment i.e. that they were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.</p> <p>A health and safety policy was available which included a risk assessment system.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) 8 adults working in the preschool service have a current paediatric first aid qualification.</p> <p>(2)(a) 2 suitably equipped first aid boxes were readily available and were stored in an easily accessible position in the kitchen and the kitchenette.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills with the last documented preschool fire drill dated 30/7/2020.</p> <p>(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment in the service was on file. Records indicated that the fire fighting equipment and the smoke and fire detection system was checked on the 4/8/2020.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed at the entrance to the play room.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met</p> <p>The service's insurance dated 5/8/2020 was for a full day care service for 86 children and included the following -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> public liability insurance; insurance against fire and theft; buildings insurance; insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.
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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) From a visual inspection the premises were of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The indoor and outdoor play area was safe and secure. Additionally, the service had a phone in each playroom to facilitate parents and guardians contact.
- (c) There was natural lighting in the ‘Giraffe’ playroom from the 4 windows on the outer wall. The ‘Giraffe’ playroom was well ventilated by means of the openable windows and double doors.

The artificial lighting provided was shatter proof.

The underfloor heating was thermostatically controlled, to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C. The ‘Giraffe’ playroom temperature was recorded at 19.5 °C on the day of inspection.

The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature and no greater than 43°C. The temperature of the warm water was recorded at 28.5 °C on the day of inspection.

The ‘Giraffe’ room was newly painted with new furniture and fittings.

- (d) The ‘Giraffe’ playroom had play and work equipment that was clean and in good repair.

Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from the proposed ‘Giraffe’ playroom in a designated secured storage area in the service kitchen/ kitchenette / utility room and secure presses.

There was a proposed cleaning schedule available for inspection.

From observation, the furnished ‘Giraffe’ playroom was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.

Adjacent to the ‘Giraffe’ playroom there 3 floor to ceiling sanitary areas with 3 wash hand basins / toilets.

The preschool service has a total of 5 designated children’s toilets and 9 designated children’s wash hand basins.

There are 3 designated adult toilets with 3 wash hand basins.

There are 2 designated nappy changing areas.

Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in designated dispensers were within easy access to a pre-school child.

Foot pedal lidded bins were provided in the sanitary areas.

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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.
- (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 is provided in the 'Giraffe' playroom for the free movement of children to work and play.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for preschool children.
- (3) The measurement of the 'Giraffe' playroom room floor space is 50 sq. meters with a maximum of 22 preschool children in the playroom at any given time.
- (5) Not applicable as the service is operating as a full day care pre-school.