

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015GY225

Name of Service Sea Garden Childcare

Address of Service: Leenane Childcare, Leenane, Co Galway, H91 C6H9.

Email Address: seagardenleenane@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Joan Mulloy

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

Proposed change: To increase the number of preschool children from 11 to 15

Proposed Number of Children: 15

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Increase the number of preschool children to max 15

Registered change: Change in number of children from 11 to 15 children

Date of Inspection:	2	0	0	8	2	0	2	5
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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.

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day for 15 Children
Date of Registration	26 th August 2025

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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).

Description of Service	<p>This community preschool service offers the options of full day care and part time care provision, from 8.30hrs to 17.30hrs. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) preschool care programme and sessional programme from 9.00hrs to 12.00hrs, Monday to Friday is also offered. There is a designated sleep room for sleep provision. Three cots are available for younger children under the age of 2 years, requiring sleep and four stackable beds are available for older preschool children, requiring sleep provision. The preschool's designated play area is under construction at present and is expected to have a purpose-built area to the side and rear of the premise within the next few weeks. The children will have access to the school playground, grass pitch and large activity centre and slide at allocated time slots until the works are complete. A child based preschool curriculum focusing on emerging interests is provided. Additionally, the community creche provides a school aged service after school programme.</p>
Premises	<p>Sea Garden Creche operates from a modular prefabricated unit on the grounds of Leenane national school in the rural village of Leenane, Co. Galway. The service consists of one playroom, a designated sleep room and a kitchen. The premises has its own kitchen, where children's main meals are heated served, and stored on site. The main hot meal is provided by a catering company. The preschool is located walking distance from the village and has public parking adjacent to the school.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider is the chairperson on the community board of management. The registered provider is supernumerary and is not on the premises daily. There is a designated person in charge and there is a named deputy person, if and when required. There are 4 staff, not including the registered provider, working and caring for the children in the service. All staff hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.</p>

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<p>Methodology</p>	<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>
<p>Acknowledgements</p>	<p>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.</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 a proposed designated person in charge and a proposed 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.

(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.

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Requirement met:	<p>(1) It is proposed there will be a maximum of 15 pre-school children aged 0 months to 6 years of age, being cared for by 5 staff members in the full day care service. It is proposed that the minimum adult child ratio will be maintained.</p> <p>(8)(b) Not applicable, as the pre-school is not a child-minding service.</p> <p>(c) The pre-school service proposes to have a minimum of two staff members on the premises during the operation of the full day care service.</p>
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

<p>(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(2) A registered provider—</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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—</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p>	
Requirement met:	<p>(1)(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The registered provider had submitted a plan of the layout of the premises. – It is proposed that adequate and suitable facilities will be offered for play in the additional sessional service.

- The playroom was comfortable, clean, visually pleasing and had been laid out to accommodate the needs of the children and staff in the service. Adequate space was provided for children to play both indoors and outdoors.
- The playroom had various interest areas that were fully accessible to the children, both visually and physically these included a role play area, construction area, home corner, arts and crafts, small world play area, soft toys area, sensory play area and a cosy corner.
- Low tables and chairs were available for the age and stage of development of the children proposed to attend the service.

(b)

- Adequate facilities for rest were proposed to be provided in the service for the number and age range of children attending the service.
- The proposed main playroom had a soft seating area to allow children rest and relax, when required.
- In addition, there was a designated sleep room for the children under 2 years of age with three cots. Additionally, four stackable beds were available for children over 2 years of age who will require sleep provision in the part time and full day care service.

(2)(b)

- The proposed registered provider ensured that a suitable, safe, and secure outdoor play area was available to the pre-school children to the side of the national school. It is proposed that the children will access the outdoor area on a daily basis. It is acknowledged that the preschools designated outdoor play area was under construction and will be off limits for a few weeks.
- There was a selection play equipment, and materials proposed for the outdoor play area, items included bikes and trikes, footballs, water and sand basins, a large activity climbing centre with slide, footballs, cars, trucks and foam building blocks.

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- (3)(a) The allocated outdoor space was observed to be suitable, secure and had no safety hazards noted. The registered provider advised that further development is planned for the outdoor play area in the future.
- (3)(b) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Not applicable.

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:

This requirement has been met.

- It is proposed that the parents will provide the childrens snacks and a catering company will supply the main hot meal for the service. The preschool staff will heat, serve and store food as necessary.
- There was a three-week menu plan available on display at the entrance hall.
- The service had a healthy eating policy which will be shared with the parents at the start of the preschool term.
- A fridge will be available should any child bring perishable items to the preschool service.
- Water and milk will be offered at each snack and mealtime. The children will have access to their drinking bottle/ sippy cup throughout each day.

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:

The requirement has been met.

- The internal playroom was secured to prevent the public having access to children and ensuring children could not exit the service unsupervised.
- The emergency door was unobstructed to ensure the safe evacuation in the event of a fire or other emergency. The emergency door had a sound alarm fitted.
- In the outdoor play area, there were no pits or ponds to cause any risk of danger to preschool children.
- All flexes, cables and cords were out of reach of children and or secured in the main playroom.
- Storage areas were secure and thereby inaccessible to prevent preschool children having access to chemicals or cleaning agents.
- A health and safety policy were available which included a daily risk assessment system for the indoor and outdoor environment.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- There was a cleaning schedule available and a sample cleaning record for the main playroom, sanitary area, nappy changing area kitchen and outdoor play area.
- 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 pedalled lidded bins were available in the playroom and sanitary area.
- The designated nappy changing area was available with clean intact changing mat, steps up, aprons and gloves and a designated wash hand basin.

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SAFE SLEEP:

- There was child size soft seating where children could rest or relax if they so choose. It was acknowledged by the registered provider that this area was due further development.
- The service had stackable beds to provide sleep provision for the older children who required a sleep in the part time and full day care service.
- In addition, there was a designated sleep room with three cots and four stackable beds. Further beds were available in storage if and when required.

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) A record of first aid responder (FAR) training was available for two adults working in the preschool service. It was acknowledged that a third member of staff has booked FAR training.
- (2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was readily available and was stored in an easily accessible position in the kitchen in the service. All content items were in date.

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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>(1) (a) There was a fire drill record available and proposed plans for monthly fire drills.</p> <p>(b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment with the annual certificate dated 13/08/2025.</p> <p>The smoke and fire detection alarms on the premises had the last annual service date of 05/04/2025.</p> <p>Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises. The main playroom had a notice beside the entrance/ exit door.</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 had adequate insurance in place for a full day care service with a maximum of 20 preschool children with an expiry date of 27/03/2026.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met</p> <p>(a) From a visual inspection the premises was of sound and stable structure.</p>
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	<p>(b) The indoor and outdoor play areas were safe and secure. There was a secure system at the main entrance doors into the preschool room. The fire exit door has a sound alarm device fitted.</p> <p>(c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate ceiling lights and natural lights was available throughout the modular prefab building. • The main playroom had 4 tubular long lights with protective coverings and natural light from the windows. • The main playroom was well ventilated by means of openable windows and doors. • The heating was thermostatically controlled by electric wall mounted heaters, to ensure the playroom stayed within the recommended temperature of between 18°C and 22°C. <p>(d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 main playroom and entire premises. <p>(e)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided. • The sanitary area adjacent to the main playroom consisted of two childrens toilets with two wash hand basins. • Additionally, there was a designated nappy changing area with a wash hand basin within the lobby area of the sanitary area. There was a clean intact nappy changing mat available and an airtight foot pedalled nappy bin. The area provided privacy by the use of ceiling to floor length wipeable shower curtains.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The staff toilet and wash hand basin is allocated in the national school on the same grounds. • 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 area and main playroom.
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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 was provided in the main playroom for the free movement of children to work and play.
- (2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children attending the full day care service in respect of the age range of the children attending. A copy of a space calculator with a weekly plan of the age range of the children proposed to attend the service was submitted.
- (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.

	<p>(4)(a)(b) The measurement of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main playroom is 36.49 square meters • A max of 15 children attending a full day care service is proposed. - A minimum of 3.5 square meters of clear floor space will be available for children aged 0-1 years of age, proposing to attend the full day care service. - A minimum of 2.8 square metres of clear floor space will be available for children aged 1 to 2 years, proposing to attend the full day care service. - A minimum of 2.35 square metres of clear floor space will be available for children aged 2 to 3 years, proposing to attend the full day care service. - 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 full day care service. <p>(b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service. <p>(5) Not applicable, as this preschool proposes to operate a full day care pre-school service.</p>
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