

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015GY245

Name of Service Stepping Stones, Tierneevin Child Care Service

Address of Service: Tierneevin National school, Tierneevin, Gort, Co Galway.

Email Address: trishbeakey@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Patricia Beakey

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 Sessional & Part-Time
Change in hours of operation – from 09.15 – 12.15 to 09:00 – 14:00.

Proposed Number of Children: 16 (12 Part Time Max.)

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Sessional and part time service and change of operational hours to 09:00 to 14:00pm

Registered change: Adding an Additional Service Type from Sessional to Part Time/Sessional.
Change in Hours of Operation from 09.15-12.15 to 09.00-14.00.
Change in Number of Children from 16 Children to 16 Children (12 Part Time Max.)

Date of Inspection:	2	6	0	7	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: F Kelly

Title: Early Years inspectorate

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, 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 16 Children (12 Part Time Max.)
Date of Registration	1 st 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	This childcare setting proposes to offer a part time and sessional service for children aged from 2 to 6 years of age, Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 14.00pm.
Premises	The service is located in a rural area 6km from Gort, Co Galway. It is situated in a prefab building on the grounds of a National School; it consists of 1 playroom with sanitary accommodation for both adults and children. The outdoor play area is located towards the front and rear of the service.
Staffing	The registered provider work on the premise on a daily basis. A total of 3 adults are currently working in the pre-school 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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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 requirement has been met. The service has a designated person in charge. and a named person who is able to deputise as required
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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) The requirement has been met. The registered provider will ensure that there is an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service.
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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.

(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

Requirement met:	(1)(a) On the day of inspection, the playroom was fully equipped with toys and equipment and laid out taking into account the age profile of the children proposed to attend and the amount of time they propose to spend in the playroom.
	(b) There were adequate and suitable rest/relaxation facilities available for the proposed number of children that may attend. 4 sleep mattresses were available in the playroom for the children aged over 2 years of age to relax and rest during the session. Suitable bed linen and blanket were available for the children should they need to rest or relax.

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| | <p>(2)(b) The registered provider has ensured that suitable, safe and secure outdoor play area is available to the pre-school children at the rear of the premises.</p> <p>(3) Children will have access to an outdoor play area on a daily basis. The outdoor space was observed to be suitable, secure and no safety hazards were noted on the day of Inspection.
Facilities for outdoor play were provided on site.</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 registered provider has ensured that adequate and suitable food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the service. The registered provider stated that the children will be offered at least 2 snacks one of which will be a hot snack e.g. pasta or homemade soup.

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 front entrance door to the pre-school was secured. Thus, prevented children from exiting the premises unsupervised and prohibiting unauthorised persons from entering the service.
- Practices in relation to administration of medication were not observed on the day of inspection. The adults demonstrated knowledge of safe practices with regard the procedures. Policies were in place for the Administration of Medication to preschool children.
- Regular fire drills will be conducted in the service. Forms to record monthly fire drills were in place.
- The playroom and the sanitary areas were clean and well maintained.

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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:

- (1) The registered provider had ensured all adults had first aid training for children.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was in place in the service.
- (b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the service at all times.

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) A register was available that will record the monthly fire drills completed in the service was available for inspection.
- (b) A register that records the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm in the premises was available for inspection.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the events of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the main entrance hall.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection.

The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

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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.
- (f)

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (a) On visual assessment, the building appears to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The indoor and outdoor areas appear to be safe and secure.
- (c) Adequate lighting was provided throughout the playroom and there was ample natural lighting and ventilation in all the rooms.
- (d) The premises and play equipment were clean and well maintained. The playroom should be cleaned regularly and between separate groups of children using the area.(the same space is used for an afterschool service in the afternoons) .

Cleaning should be part of a written cleaning policy and rota outlining methods and frequency of cleaning. Cleaning schedule and cleaning records forms were available for inspection on the day.

- (e) There were adequate and suitable sanitary areas adjacent to the playroom. Liquid soap and paper towels were also available. There were two children’s sanitary areas adjacent to the playroom. The staff toilet was also adjacent to playroom. A Nappy changing area was not required at the present but there were facilities provided in the staff toilet, should it be required.

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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 sessional pre-school service, and
 - 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).

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate floor space is provided for in the playrooms for the free movement of children to play.

The pre-school room has 28m² of clear floor space.

The total number of preschool children allowed on a sessional basis is 16 children allowing 1.818 m² per child.

The total number of children allowed on a part time basis is 12 children allowing for 2.3 m² per child.