

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015GY277

Name of Service: Tots Paradise

Address of Service: Montpellier, Athenry, Galway. H65 H702

Email Address: deniserabbitte@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms. Denise Rabbitte

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: Change of use of Classroom 3 to sanitary accommodation. Relocation of sessional children from indoor service to outdoor service.

Proposed Number of Children: 63 – (no change)

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change of use of Classroom 3 to sanitary accommodation. Additional outdoor only service Geo-pod 2.

Registered change: Change of use of Classroom 3 to sanitary accommodation. Relocation of sessional children from indoor service to outdoor service (Geo-Pod 2)

Date of Inspection: 3 0 0 8 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: H. Heagney & A. Kennedy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 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 Care Service for 63 Children

Date of Registration 21st September 2023



Child and Family Agency Act 2013
Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

Version 05
Implemented- Aug 2022
EYIPRIRPCOCS01-2017

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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	This privately operated service continues to cater for a maximum of 63 children, at any one time. The service offers a blended indoor and outdoor full day care service from 7.00hrs to 18.00hrs, from Monday to Friday. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional care pre-school programme will also be offered. The pre-school proposes to cater for children aged between 2 to 6 years of age. The service is registered to operate a school aged service with a breakfast club, afterschool programme and summer camps.
Premises	The pre-school is attached to the registered providers home, in the townland of Montpellier, which is near the town of Athenry, Co. Galway. The pre-school is divided into Classroom 1 and Classroom 2 (indoor), Geo-pod 1 and Geo-pod 2 (outdoor) and there is a designated wooden building and an outdoor area, for the school aged programme. This fit for purpose inspection relates to Classroom 2 and Geo-pod 2. Since the last inspection new sanitary areas, have been built in what was previously known as Classroom 3. There is a designated kitchen where the main meal and afternoon snack are prepared, cooked and stored. Quiet rest areas are provided in each of the two pre-school rooms and two Geo-pods, to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he/she chooses to. There are secure outdoor play areas to the rear and sides of the premises.
Staffing	The registered provider was on the premises on the day of the inspection. There is a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise. There are twelve staff. Ten staff including the registered provider, hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 or over, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education. There is a designated chef and a maintenance person.
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

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	<p>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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was 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 was met.

There is a designated person in charge and a named person available to deputise in the service.

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)—*
 (a) *a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.*

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1) It is proposed that there will be an adequate number of staff working directly with the pre-school children.

It is proposed that there will be a maximum of

- 22 children at any one time, in Classroom 1,
- 21 children at any one time, in Classroom 2,
- 11 children at any one time, in the Geo-pod 1, outdoor only service,
- 11 children at any one time, in the Geo-pod 2, outdoor only service.

There will be ten staff, who hold at hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education working directly with the proposed children.

(8)(a) The registered provider will ensure that there are two adults on the premises at all times while the service is operating.

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.
- (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.

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a) The design, organisation, and resourcing of the indoor and outdoor environment would be able to support each child’s wellbeing, learning and development.

The indoor classrooms and outdoor Geo-pods were designed and arranged to

- maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter,
- divided into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support proposed children’s play, development, and learning,
- give all proposed children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development.

Classroom 2 (indoor)

- The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was thereby readily accessible to the proposed pre-school children.
- The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, they were designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.
- Play materials and equipment were developmentally appropriate. Items included a dolls house with small world. There were books, trolleys, blocks, animals, dinosaurs, bricks, shapes, little people, and small world. There were art and craft materials including rolling pins, basins, stencils, paper plates, glitter, straws, google eyes, pencils, scissors, food colouring, stampers, rubbers, stickers, crayons, and paints. There was a toolbox with tools, puzzles, games,

Montessori colour, number, pin, towers, and rods. There were magnets, counters, wooden pieces, an arc, garages, transport vehicles and tracks. There were dolls, doll accessories, cots, dress up clothing and activity tables. There was a kitchen with kitchen utensils. Additional play items were stored in two floor to ceiling storage units.

- Displayed on the walls were posters, visual aids, and artwork, including the earth, seasons, space, the emotional cup, my emotions, happy birthday, and the daily routine. There was also a circle time centre fabric display and two mounted switch, hinge, handle, wheel, lock, and door boards. There were decorations of flowers and a rocket hanging from the ceiling.

Geo-pod 2 – (outdoor)

- There was an all-weather Geo-pod with a seating area.
- In the area around the Geo-pod 2, there was a grass and tarmac surface. There were trailers, push cars, bicycles, tractors, scooters, three low goal posts. There was a bespoke wooden 2-seater vehicle, and a car with storage area. There were picnic tables, planters, storage boxes, cones, tables, and chairs. There was a wooden Garda station, a wooden Siopa, balancing beams, tyres, a large wooden tractor with seating and a hide out. There was a wooden teepee, and an activity centre with swings, slide, and vantage area. There was an easel, activity tables, a mud kitchen, and a musical frame.
- The registered provider advised that the children attending the Geo-pod 2 outdoor only session would wear sunscreen and or suitable weather clothing.

(1)(b) Rest / quiet areas were provided in Classroom 2 and Geo-pod 2 - outdoor service, in the form of a bean bags and soft seating to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to. There were eleven stackable beds available in the pre-school service for any child attending the full day care / part time service requiring sleep provision.

(3)(a)

Classroom 2 outdoor play area

The registered provider advised that the outdoor area was an extension of the indoor environment and linked with the learning that goes on inside.

The registered provider advised that the children in the Classroom 2 room would have the opportunity to be outside as often as possible, in all weather conditions.

In the outdoor area for the children using Classroom 2, there was a newly built all-weathered sheltered area with perspex walls, a roof and a wooden floor. There were boats, counters, blocks, dolls, vehicles, animals, toys, and tracks. There was a kitchen with utensils and a rest area with an arch cover. There was a rocking horse, push cars, and an activity cube. There were tables and chairs.

Adjacent to the all-weather sheltered area there was a play area with an impact absorbing and bark surfaces. There were adequate equipment for children learning and development including mounted blackboards, see-saws, slides, swings, a picnic table, and a blue playhouse. There were push cars, bicycles, trailers, and balancing beams for children's movement. There was a wooden bridge, tree trunks, a climbing frame with a slide and vantage area for children's active play. There was a lidded basin, two driving wheels with seating and a buddy bench for children to play and rest. There was a covered sand unit with utensils for sensory play. There was an activity centre with two swings, a climbing rope, a ladder, a vantage area, and a climbing frame for children's movement.

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 had a healthy eating policy and a four-week menu.
- The registered provider advised that the service will offer the following to all children attending part time and full day care.
 From 7.00hrs to 8.15hrs, a selection of cereals, toast and milk will be offered.
 From 13.30hrs, the main meal cooked on site will be served.
 From 16.00hrs, a snack with two food groups will be offered. The registered provider advised the early years inspectors that this would consist of a selection of rice cakes, yogurts, cheese, fruit pieces, bread sticks.

 From 11.00hrs to 11.30hrs, it is proposed that parents and guardians will provide food for their child’s morning snack time.
- The registered provider advised that the children attending the service on a full day care basis will have two meals, and one snack, supplied by the service and each meal will have at least two food groups.
- The registered provider advised that the hot meals and snacks will be prepared, cooked, and stored on site in the services designated kitchen.
- Drinks of milk and water will be offered for each child’s meal and snack time.
- The registered provider advised that a drinks table will be available in each of the classrooms and the two Geo-pods and in the outdoor play areas, to allow the proposed children the opportunity to ‘self-serve’ their drinks.
- Perishable items from children’s lunch boxes will be stored in a designated fridges.

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

- There was a buzzer access system into the main entrance front door.
- The staff only areas, kitchen, the registered providers home, storage areas and adult sanitary areas, were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- The external play areas were secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance were kept for all of the children, that will be attending the pre-school.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted and or secured to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- The heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing without risk of scalding the children, was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- In Classroom 2 windows were fitted with restrictive access devices / safety systems.
- There were records of a regular pest control system.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There was a documented risk assessment system for the indoor and outdoor play areas. The service had a risk assessment system for checking that toys and equipment were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.

- The registered provider clearly identified to the early years' inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.
- There were no pits or ponds in the outdoor area to cause any risk of danger to the proposed pre-school children.

Infection Control

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The registered provider advised that the outdoor play equipment would be cleaned prior to/ after a child's use, with documented records maintained.
- A refrigerator was provided in Classroom 1, Classroom 2 and in an all-weathered sheltered area, for the storage of perishable foods.
- Classroom 2 was observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows and doors left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- The passive ventilation covers in the sanitary areas were kept in a clean condition.
- The registered provider had a cleaning schedule template and cleaning records for the materials, equipment, and furnishings.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Seven staff who will be working in the pre-school service have a current paediatric first aid qualification.
- (2)(a) Three suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and in an easily accessible conspicuous position. Additional first aid items were stored in a secure press.
- (b) The first aid boxes were readily available, with content items within date.

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 monthly fire drills.
- (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file.
- Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated 16th of December 2022.
- Records indicated that the last annual maintenance certificate for the smoke and fire detection system was dated 9th of June 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the indoor and outdoor areas.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

The service had insurance with an expiry date 27th of March 2024 which was for a full day care service for 120 children and included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

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.

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) There were openable windows and doors and the artificial lighting provided in Classroom 2 was shatter proof.

The oil-fired heating system had a thermostatically controlled thermostat to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C for the indoor rooms. On the day of inspection, the indoor room temperature was maintained between 19.1°C. Records indicated that the heating system was last serviced on the 29th of August 2023.

	<p>The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature of 38.6°C and the registered provider advised it would be no greater than 43°C.</p> <p>(d) In Classroom 2 and Geo-pod 2, the play and work equipment were clean and in good repair.</p> <p>Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from / inaccessible to the pre-school children.</p> <p>From observation, the furnished indoor and outdoor Geo-pods were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.</p> <p>(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.</p> <p>There were nine designated children’s toilets with eight designated children’s wash hand basins.</p> <p>There were two designated adult-only toilets with two designated wash hand basins.</p> <p>There were two nappy changing areas with two designated wash hand basins.</p> <p>There were two airtight sealable bins for the disposal of nappies. There was a supply of disposable aprons and gloves for staff involved in the nappy changing procedure.</p> <p>Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in designated dispensers were within easy access to a pre-school child.</p> <p>Foot pedal lidded 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.*
- (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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed indoor playrooms and outdoor service for the free movement of children to work, rest, learn, and play.
- (2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children.
- (3) The measurement of :
- Classroom 2 floor space previously accommodated 17 children was remeasure as 38.34 square meters, thereby allowing a maximum of 21 children.
 - There is no longer Classroom 3 as this area was converted to sanitary accommodation.
 - The outdoor Geo pod 2 area, had adequate space available for the work, play, and movement of the proposed children attending.
- 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.
- and
- 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 part time full day care service.

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- a minimum of 2.3 spare metres of clear floor space will be available for children aged 3 to 6 years, proposing to attend the part time full day care service.

A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are no more than 22 children are in a room in the service at any one time.