

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, Co Galway, H65 H702

Email Address: deniserabbitte@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Denise Rabbitte

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

Proposed change: Change in the number of children that can be accommodated from 63 to 74 children in an outdoor room providing a sessional service.

Proposed Number of Children: 74 Children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in the number of children that can be accommodated from 63 to 74 children in an outdoor room providing a sessional service.

Registered change: 74 children

Date of Inspection: 2 9 0 8 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: A. Kennedy & M. Farrell

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Year's Inspectorate,
TUSLA, Child and Family Agency,
Government Buildings, Convent Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care, Part time and Sessional Services for 74 Children
Date of Registration	09.09.2024

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 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 the provision of a sessional service to be provided in a sheltered area to the rear of the premises. There is a designated kitchen where the main meal and afternoon snack are prepared, cooked and stored. A quiet rest area is provided 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)

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	<p>(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	<p>The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment	
<p>(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.</p>	
Requirement met:	<p>(1)</p> <p>(a) The requirement was met.</p> <p>There is a designated person in charge and a named person available to deputise in the service.</p>

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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.*
- (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 requirements were 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:

- 11 children at any one time in the sheltered outdoor space with the minimum ratio of one adult to eleven children will be adhered to at all times.

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, 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

Requirement met:

The requirements were met.

(1)

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

The outdoor sheltered space was 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.

The registered provider advised that the children in the sheltered area would have the opportunity to be outside as often as possible, in all weather conditions. In the outdoor area, there was an 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 shelving area with spools, corks, blocks, puzzles and shape sorters. There was a farm and selection of animals and a garage with a selection of cars and trucks. There was a kitchen with utensils and food pieces and a rest area with an arch cover. There were dolls, buggies and accessories. There were wooden activity cubes, 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.

A newly erected sheltered play area was also being developed.

(b) A rest/quiet area was provided with child sized chairs and a couch, to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose.

(3)

(a) Adjacent to the all-weather sheltered area there was a play area with an impact absorbing and bark surfaces. There was 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.

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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 requirements were met.

The service had a healthy eating policy.

- From 11.00hrs to 11.30hrs, it is proposed that parents and guardians will provide food for their child’s morning snack time.
- 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 the sheltered play area and the 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 fridge.

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 requirements were met.

- There was a buzzer access system into the main entrance front door and two gates with securing mechanisms inaccessible to the preschool children.
- The staff only areas, kitchen, the registered provider’s 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 unauthorized persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors in 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.

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- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted and or secured to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- The heating system in the sanitary area 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.
- 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.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

- (1) One adult had a certificate of completion of First Aid Responder (FAR) training with an expiry of the 19 June 2026.

The registered provider provided evidence of a second person to complete the FAR training on 23 and 24 September 2024 and 18 October 2024.

(1)

- (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and in an easily accessible conspicuous position in the proposed outdoor shelter.
- (b) The first aid box was 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 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:

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 29 November 2023. Records indicated that the last annual maintenance certificate for the smoke and fire detection system was dated 25 June 2024.

- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the notice board in the sheltered outdoor space.

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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 insurance with an expiry date 28th of March 2024 which was for a full day care service for 131 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. <p>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.</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) The outdoor shelter had no visible defects.</p> <p>(b) The entrance gate at the front of the service leading to the outdoor area to be used by the proposed new children has a security mechanism in place to prevent unauthorised entry to the area and children from leaving unnoticed.</p> <p>(c) There were openable windows and doors, and the natural lighting provided. 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.</p> <p>(d) In the sheltered play area, the play and work equipment were clean and in good repair.</p>
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Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from / inaccessible to the preschool children. From observation, the sheltered play area and outdoor play area were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided. There were three designated children's toilets with three designated children's wash hand basins. In the main building there were an additional children's toilets and five designated wash hand basins.

There were two designated adult-only toilets with two designated wash hand basins. There were two nappy changing areas with two designated wash hand basins. 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. 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. The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature of 37-38°C.

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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 sheltered play area 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 floor space was 37.8 square meters, thereby providing adequate floor space to accommodate 11 children ensuring –a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service.