

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015GY284

Name of Service Tuam Community Childcare Centre

Address of Service: Parkmore Estate, Dublin Road, Tuam Co. Galway. H54 V663.

Email Address: tuamcommchild@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Louise O Shaughnessy.

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time		Sessional	
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Current maximum number of children attending from 50 to 61 preschool children.

Proposed Number of Children: 61 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Increase maximum number of preschool children from 50 to 61 preschool children.

Registered change: Change in number of children attending from 50 to 61 children

Date of Inspection: 1 9 0 8 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: S. Meehan.

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 Care for 61 children
Date of Registration	1 st September 2024

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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	The full day care preschool will operate, out of a purpose built creche, in Parkmore estate, Tuam in north county Galway. This proposed preschool aims to offer a full day care, part-time and an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional pre-school care programmes. The service hopes to operate between 9.00 am to 6.30 pm from Monday to Friday, for children aged between 1 year of age to 6 years of age. The service proposes to cater for a maximum number of 61 pre-school children at any one time.
Premises	There is a total of 5 playrooms, sanitary facilities, staff room, dining room and a kitchen. It is proposed that the pre-school children will have access to a secure outdoor play area to the side of the preschool, for children's play activities, fresh air, and exploration.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider will work directly in the service and there is the proposed person in charge and a deputy is appointed. The proposed person in charge holds a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. It is proposed that all staff employed to work with children will require the same qualification.
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 wishes 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, as the registered provider has ensured that the service will have a named designated person in charge and a named deputy who can deputise as required.

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) It is proposed that the minimum ratio of adults to children will be maintained which will be reflected in the staff roster. A documented staff roster was available.

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

Requirement met:

(1) (a) Adequate and suitable facilities will be offered for play in the playrooms and in the outdoor play areas of the service
The playrooms are 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.

The registered provider advised that play equipment and materials that were specific to the preschool children attending the playrooms would be freely available and accessible to these children. Additional equipment and materials will be rotated on a theme basis.

The 5 playrooms environment supported each child’s learning, development, and wellbeing as -

- The indoor playrooms were comfortable, clean, visually pleasing, and inviting and laid out to accommodate the needs of the children and adult staff member in the service.
- The playrooms had various interest areas. Equipment, toys, and materials were at children's level for them to be fully accessible to the children, visually and physically.

- (b) Adequate facilities for rest were provided as the proposed playrooms has soft seating areas with a couch and matting to allow children to rest and relax when required. Children under 2 years of age had access to a designated sleep room for sleep with standard cots and linen are available.

- (2)(a) The registered provider had documentary evidence of risk assessment and ensured that the proposed designated outdoor play areas. The outdoor play areas are maintained, suitable, safe, and secure.

The surface area has a tarmac, grass and impact absorbing surface and is surrounded by fencing.

There is an adequate amount of defined interest areas with a sheltered area in the outdoor play areas.

- (3)(a) The registered provider advised that all preschool children attending the service will play outside daily. There is a designated outdoor storage area for toys and equipment.

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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 service has a healthy eating policy in place.
- The service had a sample 3-week menu plan which is suitable balance and varied.
- A fridge is available for children attending on a sessional and full day care basis.
- Water is available in the playrooms and during outdoor play.
- The main hot meal of the day is supplied by the service and is prepared on the premises.

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:

- The main entrance doors into the pre-school were secured to prevent unauthorised entry by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- Toys and play equipment were safe and in good condition in the playrooms.
- There was a wall mounted thermostat to ensure that the temperature in the playrooms were maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Fire doors were unobstructed to ensure the safe evacuation in the event of a fire or other emergency.
- The utility storage area was secured to prevent preschool children having access to chemicals or cleaning agents.
- All flexes and cables were out of reach of children or secured.
- The cords of the blinds were secured and fastened and therefore posed no risk to preschool children.
- There were fridges for the storage of perishable items from children’s lunch boxes for their snack times.
- The proposed registered provider had a risk assessment system. A system of checking toys and equipment was in place i.e., that they were not broken, clean and maintained in a good state of repair.
- There were no pits or ponds to cause any risk of danger to preschool children.
- The service had a daily record of attendance book to be kept for all the children attending the playrooms.

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INFECTION CONTROL:

- There was a cleaning schedule available and a sample cleaning record for the playroom, sanitary area, and outdoor play area.
- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- A supply of hand sanitiser was available at the entrance, corridors of the primary school and the playroom.
- 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.

SAFE SLEEP:

- There was child size soft seating where children could rest or relax if they so choose.
- There was a designated sleep room with 3 cots for children under 2 years of age, with appropriate linen for use.
- Stackable beds 8 in total were available for children over the age of 2 years of age.
- A sample physical sleep check form was available and in line with safe sleep best practice.
- The temperature in the designated sleep room was maintained between 18°C to 20°C.

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) The person in charge and another staff member had evidence of current first aid responder for children qualification.
- (2)
 - (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was readily available and was stored in an easily accessible position in the service.
 - (b) The first aid box is available for preschool children in the playrooms.

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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:

The requirement has been met

(1)(a) Arrangements were in place to record fire drills on a monthly basis.

(b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file.

The firefighting equipment was professionally serviced on the 14/12/2023 and smoke fire detection system was professionally checked on the 10/07/2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

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

An insurance quote was available for 65 children in the proposed full day care service. 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)

– From a visual inspection the service appeared to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

– The indoor and outdoor play area were safe and secure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The main door was secured into the service. – Restrictive access devices were fitted on the playroom’s windows. <p>(c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There is natural light throughout the building and openable windows. – There were artificial covered ceiling lights in the 2 playrooms, corridors, and sanitary areas. – The heating system had a thermostatically controlled to ensure the playrooms temperature remains within the recommended temperature of between 18°C and 22°C. – The under-floor heating system was last serviced on the 16/08/2024. – Documentary evidence indicated that the heating system was last serviced annually. <p>(d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In the 5 playrooms, play and work equipment was new, clean and in good state of repair. – Cleaning products were safely stored in an inaccessible area away from the playrooms. – There was a proposed cleaning schedule and cleaning checklist for the playrooms, sanitary areas, and outdoor areas. – The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. – The service had a professional rodent proofing service in place and the pest control service last carried out an inspection on the 16/08/2024. <p>(e)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided. – There are 5 designated toilets with 5 wash hand basins in the sanitary areas. There were pedal bins in the sanitary area. – There was 1 nappy changing area with a wash hand basin and a self-sealing, leak proof pedal bin. <p>There were 2 designated adult toilet that were inaccessible to the preschool children. Foot pedal 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.
- (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:

1-4 The requirement has been met as adequate floor space has been provided in the change of circumstances to a full day care service and an increase of numbers in the sessional service in the playrooms.

Playroom 1:

Baby room: Children aged 1 - 2 years of age - measured 28 meters squared, which allows a maximum of 10 preschool children on a full day care basis.

Playroom 2:

Toddler room: Children aged 2-3 years- measured 46 meters squared, which allows a maximum of 19 preschool children on a full day care or part time basis. The service can cater for 22 preschool children on a sessional basis.

Playroom 3:

Preschool 1 room: Children aged 2-3 years- measured 33 meters squared, which allows a maximum of 14 preschool children on a full day care or part time basis. The service can cater for 18 preschool children on a sessional basis.

Playroom 4:

Preschool 2 room: Children aged 2 years 8 months - 6 years- measured 33 meters squared. The service can cater for 18 preschool children on a sessional basis.

Playroom 5:

Cabin Preschool room: Children aged 2 years 8 months - 6 years- measured 28 meters squared. The service can cater for 15 preschool children on a sessional basis

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Base on the measurements of the 5 playrooms the service can increase the maximum number of children catered for from 50 preschool children to 61 preschool children at any given time.