

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015KE076

Name of Service: Kinder Crescent

Address of Service: Chambers Park, Kilcock, Kildare

Email Address: info@kindercrescent.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Sharon Regan and Yvonne Regan

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: Increase in maximum number of children attending from 62 to 68.
Change in age range of children attending from 1-6 to 2-6 years.

Proposed Number of Children: 68 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Number of children attending from 62 to 68 children
Age Profile from 1-6 years to 2-6 years

Registered change: Number of children attending from 62 to 68 children
Age Profile from 1-6 years to 2-6 years

Date of Inspection: 2 6 0 8 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: E. Mulhern and H. Bourke

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency
Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road
Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

	<p>Child and Family Agency Act 2013</p> <p>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016</p>	<p>Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)</p>	<p>1 of 10</p>
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Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care service for 68 children
Date of Registration	02 September 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	Kinder Crescent is an early years service registered at the time of inspection to provide sessional, part-time and full day care to a maximum of 62 children aged 1-6 years. The registered provider proposes to change their registration to a maximum of 68 children aged 2-6 years.
Premises	The service operates from a two-story, purpose-built premises in a residential area on the outskirts of Kilcock. It opens from 7.30am to 6.15pm Monday to Friday. There are currently seven preschool rooms in operation. The registered provider proposes to use the cot room which is no longer required to accommodate the 6 additional children. The premises includes sanitary facilities on each floor, a kitchen, an office, a staff room and an outdoor play area. Set down and parking facilities are available at the front of the premises.
Staffing	There are 12 staff employed to work in the service during operational hours including the service manager and cook. A cleaner is employed to work outside of the service operational hours.
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</p>

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were 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:	The requirement is met. (1)(a) There is a designated person in charge and a named person is available 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:	The requirement has been met. (1) There are 12 staff employed to work full-time in the service during operational hours including the service manager and cook. The providers propose to accommodate the 6 additional children aged 2-6 years, on a full-day-care basis in the Toddler room (previously the cot room). This will bring the total number of rooms from 7 to 8. Eleven staff members have the required qualification to work directly with the children. The providers propose to allocate one staff member to each room with three staff members available to assist across the rooms as needed. Three of the rooms will open
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	<p>in the morning only and will accommodate children who will attend on a sessional basis.</p> <p>The staffing plan was deemed to meet the requirements based on the age and type of service proposed for the children in each room.</p>
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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.*
- (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:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The providers propose to accommodate 6 additional children aged 2-6 years in a room on the ground floor (Toddler room) which was previously used as a cot room. The room had been re-purposed and was adequately laid out with equipment to cater for the play needs of the children proposed to attend. Appropriately sized furniture</p>
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was available for meals and table-top activities. Play materials and equipment were visible and easily accessible to the children including construction materials, cause and effect toys, art and craft materials and items for small world play.

(1)(b) The providers propose to accommodate the additional children to sleep within their base room after dinner. A total of 9 low beds and 6 sleep mats with appropriate linen are available in the service. Six of these will be provided to the children. The providers propose that the children who do not require sleep at this time will be accommodated in one of two other childcare rooms or the outdoor area at this time. A rest area was available within the room for children who may wish to rest outside of this time.

(2)(b) Not applicable, as the service registered prior to 30 June 2016.

(3)(a) The service had a fully enclosed outdoor area. This was divided into four sections and was surfaced with an artificial grass surface. The areas had space for free movement and was equipped with items to support play and gross motor development including climbing equipment and ride-on toys. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area.

(3)(b) Not applicable as an outdoor area is provided on the premises.

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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 requirement is met.

The premises was equipped with appropriate facilities for preparing, cooking and storing food for the number and age of children proposed to attend. Drinking water was available in all rooms. A five-week rolling menu was available consisting of varied and nutritious meals and snacks. Meals and snacks were prepared on site by the service's cook and brought to the children's rooms at appropriately timed intervals. Staff stated that snacks are available to children if they are hungry outside of these times.

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 is met.

The registered providers took reasonable measures to ensure that the environment was suitable and safe. External doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access. The outdoor area was suitably secured with a high-level perimeter fence and gate. All windows were fitted with fire-safe restrictors. Emergency exits were clear. Items that could pose a risk to the children including cleaning products and medicines were stored securely out of their reach.

The premises and equipment were maintained in a clean condition. Detailed cleaning schedules were in place for all rooms and facilities. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and wall mounted paper hand towel dispensers were available in the

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sanitary accommodation for hand washing and drying. Pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service for the hygienic disposal of waste.

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 is met.

(1) Current certification in relation to First Aid Response (FAR) training was available for four staff members. The staff roster provided for at least one of these staff members to be present in the service at all times of opening.

(2)(a) & (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored in conspicuous positions immediately available for staff use.

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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 is met.

(1)

(a) Records were available of fire drills undertaken in the service. The last fire drill recorded was dated 30 July 2024.

(b) Records were available detailing the number and type of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The dates of maintenance were recorded 19 October 2023 and 29 April 2024 consecutively.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were conspicuously displayed.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

A certificate of insurance cover was available for 72 children attending on a full day care basis, valid from 1 August 2024 to 27 March 2025.

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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:

The requirement is met.

(a) The premises was visually in an appropriate state of repair.

(b) The entrance to the service was secured with key-pad access and controlled/monitored by the staff to supervise entry and exit. The outdoor area was secured to prevent a child leaving the area unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area. No hazards to children were observed within the premises.

(c) The premises and newly proposed care room had an adequate source of natural light. This was supplemented with artificial lighting. The service has gas central heating in all rooms. Radiators were covered with safeguards. Air conditioning was available in some rooms. The ambient temperature of the newly proposed base room was recorded at 21°C. A portable air conditioning unit was available in this room and the windows could be opened to provide natural ventilation. Mechanical ventilation was available in the sanitary areas.

(d) Cleaning schedules were in place and the premises were adequately cleaned and maintained.

(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided to accommodate the proposed additional number of children. There was a total of eight toilets with wash hand basins across the two floors designated for children’s use. Two of the sanitary facilities contained nappy changing units. A separate sanitary facility was

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available for staff. Pedal operated bins were available in all sanitary areas for the appropriate disposal of waste and nappies.

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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space was provided for the work, play and movement of the increased number of children proposed to attend as outlined below.

(2) The clear floor space for the proposed new room measured 19.2 square meters. This was adequate for the addition of the six children aged 2-6 years proposed to attend on a full-day care basis.