

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015KE090

Name of Service Tir na nÓg Early Years Care and Education Centre Ltd.,

Address of Service: Model Court, Athy, Co. Kildare R14 CR29

Email Address: info@tirnanogathy.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Kathleen Cash

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:	The service proposes to operate two unoccupied rooms for children currently attending the service on a sessional basis.
Proposed Number of Children:	124 - No change
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Following a fit for purpose change in circumstances inspection, both proposed new rooms meet registration requirements for use.
Registered change:	Addition of two rooms within the service

Date of Inspection:	2	7	0	7	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: Therese Duignan
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Vista Primary Care Centre, 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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 124 Children
Date of Registration	29 th August 2023

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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	<p>Tir na nÓg Early Years Care and Education Centre Ltd., has been operating as a full day care service which includes sessional care for children aged 1-6 years old.</p> <p>The service opens from 8:00am to 18:00 hours Monday to Friday. A school aged service is provided.</p> <p>The proposed change, as advised by the registered provider, is to operate two unoccupied rooms to accommodate children currently attending the service for a sessional service.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from a listed building in Athy town. Ten pre-school rooms, two dedicated sleep rooms, a kitchen, office and a staff room are provided. One pre-school room is located in a standalone unit to the rear of the main building and another pre-school room is located in a building on the right-hand side of the courtyard directly across from the main building. Outdoor play facilities are located to the rear and side of the premises. Parking is available to the front of the premises for set down and pick up.</p>
Staffing	<p>The service employs 26 staff including the registered provider. The childcare staff working directly with the pre-school children in the proposed care rooms have a qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education which is recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.</p>
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</p>

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	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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the manager, supervisor, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment	
<i>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—</i>	
<i>(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.</i>	
Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1) (a)The registered provider has a designated a person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels	
<i>(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.</i>	
Requirement met:	The requirement is met. (1) The registered provider has ensured that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

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 preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or*
 - (b) *where no such space is provided, the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.*

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a) The two proposed pre-school rooms have suitable play materials and equipment for children aged from 2 years and 8 months to attend an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) sessional service. The proposed environments have been developed with dedicated play areas that included a home/kitchen area, construction area and library area, small world materials, puzzles, jigsaws; art materials and equipment for fine and gross motor activity skills were displayed on low level shelving. A sufficient and appropriate number of child-size tables and chairs to cater for the proposed number of children are available.

(b) The rest areas were comfortable in the two pre-school rooms. They consisted of a child sized sofa placed in a quiet area in the room in front of the library area. They were available for any child wishing to take a break from activities and rest.

(3)(a)(b) The outdoor play areas were safe, suitable and secure. They provided opportunities for sensorial play, running, climbing, using scooters and trikes and playground games.

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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 service has a healthy eating policy in place.

Parents will be requested to provide a healthy snack for their child in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Water is freely available to the children at all times.

snacks. There is a fridge available for the storage to children's snacks in the two pre-school rooms.

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.

Access to the proposed pre-school room 10 is through the main entrance of the premises which is electronically secured and is controlled by staff members. The door to the main premises is secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised.

Access to the proposed pre-school room 11 is directly from the courtyard. The door is secured by a yale lock. Access is controlled by the staff members and the door is secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and any unauthorised access.

Cleaning agents are safely stored out of the reach of children.

There is storage space in the proposed pre-school rooms to store the children's personal belongings safely.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap, paper hand towels are available in the proposed room for hygienic hand washing and drying and a foot pedal operated bins for hygienic and safe disposal of used paper towel and tissues is available.

The fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

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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:

The requirement is met.

- (1) Current certification in relation to persons qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) is available for eight staff members that are working in the service.
- (2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is available and accessible to children. It was observed to be stored in a conspicuous position in the two pre-school rooms.

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 is met.

- (1)(a) Documentation was available for recording monthly fire drills. The most recent fire drill was conducted on 16 June 2023.
- (b) There was a maintenance record available of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm, which was 31 March 2023 and 9 June 2023 respectively.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was clearly displayed on the premises.
- A fire assembly point with clear signage is displayed in the car park at the front of the premises.

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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 is met.

An insurance certificate 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.

The registered provider had evidence of insurance cover for 125 children. The insurance cover was valid from 28 March 2023 – 27 March 2024.

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) Visually, the proposed pre-school rooms, 10 and 11 and the premises are in a state of good repair.

(b) The proposed pre-school room 10 is located at the rear of the premises and is secured from unauthorised entry by the electronically secured main door which is controlled by staff members.

The proposed pre-school room 11 is located in the premises on the right-hand side of the courtyard. It is secured from unauthorised entry by a yale lock secured main door which is controlled by staff members.

	<p>(c) Room 11- There is one large window and two glass panels in the doors providing natural daylight. The window can be opened for ventilation. Five recessed ceiling spot lights provide additional artificial lighting. The sanitary area is ventilated by an openable window.</p> <p>Room 10 - There are two windows and two glass panels in the doors providing natural daylight. One of the windows can be opened for ventilation. Two strip lights with protective coverings to provide additional artificial lighting are fitted. The sanitary area is ventilated by mechanical ventilation.</p> <p>The pre-school rooms are heated by one wall mounted radiator in each room that is thermostatically controlled. A wall mounted fan heater is fitted to provide heat for the sanitary area in room 11.</p> <p>(d) Daily cleaning schedules were in place for the pre-school room, sanitary areas, and the service.</p> <p>(e) A total of one toilet and one wash hand basin is provided for children’s use in the sanitary areas attached to the pre-school rooms 10 and 11. There are nappy change facilities available on the premises.</p> <p>This is adequate to cover the requirements of the total number of children in the proposed pre-school room.</p> <p>There is four toilets and four wash hand basin facilities available for staff members to use in the service.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

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(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.

(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) (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A total clear floor space of 22.7m² is available in the proposed pre-school room named 'Room 10 (Building located at rear of premises in outdoor area)' for the maximum daily attendance of 11 children aged 2 years 8 months – 6 years on a sessional basis attending ECCE care provision .• A total clear floor space of 26.4m² is available in the proposed pre-school room named 'Room 11 (located in building across the courtyard)' for the maximum daily attendance of 11 children aged 2 years 8 months – 6 years on a sessional basis attending ECCE care provision.
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