

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015KE196

Name of Service Early Learners Creche, Pre-School and Afterschool

Address of Service: Timolin, Moone, Athy, Co. Kildare R14 VH94

Email Address: claredoran5@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Clare Doran

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 provide an afternoon sessional service from 12:15 – 15:15 hours for 17 children.

Proposed Number of Children: 44 (no change)

Recommended Change Following Inspection: The service capacity will offer an afternoon sessional ECCE service from 12:15 – 15:15 hours, Monday to Friday for 17 children (inclusive of the total 44).

Registered change: Addition of an afternoon session

Date of Inspection:	1	0	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 / Sessional Service for 44 Children
Date of Registration	18 th July 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>Early Learners Creche, Pre-School and Afterschool has been operating as a full day care service which includes sessional care. It caters for a maximum of 44 children aged 1-6 years old.</p> <p>The service opens from 8:00am to 18:00 hours Monday to Friday.</p> <p>The proposed change as advised by the registered provider is to provide an afternoon sessional service for 17 children in addition to the full day care provision it currently offers.</p>
Premises	<p>The service is located in a former primary school in the village of Timolin, Co. Kildare. There are three preschool rooms with kitchen facilities available and a dedicated sleep room. A large outdoor play area divided into various sections is available at the rear of the premises. Parking is available to the front of the premises for set down and pick up.</p>
Staffing	<p>The service employs eight staff including the registered provider.</p> <p>The childcare staff working directly with the pre-school children in the proposed care room 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 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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a) The registered provider has a designated person in charge and a named person to 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:

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.

(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.

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Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The proposed pre-school room has 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 environment had 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 were available.</p> <p>(b) The rest area was comfortable. It consisted of a child sized sofa placed in a quiet area in the room in front of the library area. It was available for any child wishing to take a break from activities and rest.</p> <p>(2)(b) The three outside play areas were safe, suitable and secure. They were enclosed by a boundary fence and secured entrance gates.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>The service has a healthy eating policy in place.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>snacks. There is a fridge available for the storage to children’s snacks.</p>
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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 is through the main entrance of the premises which is electronically secured and is controlled by staff members. The door to the premises is secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised.

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

There was storage space in the proposed pre-school room 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 bin for hygienic and safe disposal of used paper towel and tissues is available.

The fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

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) was available for two staff members that will be 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 pre-school room.

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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 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 13 June 2023.

(b) There was a maintenance record available of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm, which was 23 February 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 had clear signage displayed in the outdoor area at the side of the premises.

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 44 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 room and premises were in a state of good repair.

(b) The proposed pre-school room was located in the premises and was secured from unauthorised entry by an electronically secured main door which is controlled by staff members.

(c) There were four openable windows in the proposed pre-school room providing natural daylight and ventilation. Four strip lights with protective coverings to provide additional artificial lighting were fitted also.

The sanitary areas were ventilated by openable windows which were all observed to be open.

The pre-school room and sanitary areas were heated by wall mounted radiators that were thermostatically controlled.

(d) Daily cleaning schedules were in place for the pre-school room, sanitary areas, and the service.

(e) A total of two toilets and two wash hand basins are provided for children's use in the sanitary areas attached to the pre-school room. There was a nappy change facility available on the premises.

This is adequate to cover the requirements of the total number of children attending the service including the proposed pre-school room.

There is one toilet and one wash hand basin facility available for staff members to use in the service.

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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.

(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)

- A total clear floor space of 39.9m² is available in the proposed pre-school room named 'Caterpillar room' for the maximum daily attendance of 22 children aged 2 years 8 months – 6 years on a sessional basis attending ECCE care provision or 17 children ranging in age from 3-6 years on a full day care or part-time basis.