

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015KK021

Name of Service Danesfort Childcare

Address of Service: 1 Fr. Campion Place, Danesfort, Co. Kilkenny.

Email Address: danesfortchildcare@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Liam Mullen

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

Proposed change: Increase the maximum number of children that can be accommodated at any one time from 50 to 76.

Proposed Number of Children: 76

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Following the fit for purpose inspection the registered provider amended their application to increase the number of children that can be accommodated at any one time in the service from 50 to 73 (Max 63 Full Day Care).

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 50 to 73 (Max 63 Full Day Care)

Date of Inspection:	2	3	1	0	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: E Mc Garry

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.

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 Service for 73 Children (Max 63 Full Day Care)
Date of Registration	13 th December 2023

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	Danesfort Childcare facility is situated in a rural village in Co Kilkenny. It provides an early years service to children from the ages of 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm. The service is registered to provide an Early Years Care and Education (ECCE) program to children. The service is registered to provide part time and full day care to early years children. The service is also registered to provide a school age service.
Premises	The premises is a purpose-built childcare facility. There are four early years rooms in the service. Ladybird caters for children from 1 to 2 years, Caterpillar caters for children from 2 to 3 years of age, Butterfly 1 caters for children from 3 to 6 years of age and Butterfly 2 caters for children from 3 to 6 years of age. There are two sleep rooms, toilets, nappy changing facilities and three outdoor play areas.
Staffing	There are 14 staff employed in the service. There is one staff member employed to prepare snacks and meals for the children. All staff working directly with the early years children hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.
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) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes 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	
<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. The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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:	(1) The registered provider proposes to continue to employ the same staff members to work directly with the proposed children during the hours of operation of the full day care service. The registered provider will employ more staff as necessary to ensure there is an adequate number of staff working with the children at all times.

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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.
- (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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The service has four large early years rooms that have been developed with toys, play materials and areas of interest. The rooms are appropriately resourced. There are three enclosed outdoor areas that are accessed directly from the early years rooms. The play areas are safe, suitable and secure.

(b)

There are rest areas provided in all the early years rooms in the service. There are adequate sleep facilities provided for the proposed increase in the number of children to attend the service. There are 6 cots and 12 beds for children over 2 to sleep on.

(3)(a)(b)

The service has three safe, suitable and secure outdoor areas accessed directly from each of the early years rooms to the rear of the service. There are jungle gyms, ride on toys and various games provided for the children.

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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 has been met.

The service will continue to provide all the snacks and meals for the children attending the service. The service has a healthy eating policy. The policy includes the schedule of meals and snacks for children depending on the length of time they spend in the service. For example, children attending on a full day care basis are provided with two meals and two snacks. Drinking bottles are provided by the parents. Additional water is provided from the tap which is a from a mains water source.

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 following requirements to ensure the safety of the children have been met.

General safety:

The openings of the windows are restricted with appropriate restrictive opening devices that can be removed in the event of the window being needed as a means of escape. There are no loose cords evident on the windows in the early years rooms. The toys are suitable and appropriate for the ages and stages of the children attending the early years rooms. The fire doors are not obstructed.

Infection control:

Fridges were available in the service where it is proposed to store the perishable items of children's snacks and meals. All bins in the care room and toilet facilities are pedal operated and lidded.

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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 has been met.

(1) There is a person trained in first aid for children who is immediately available to the children attending the early years service.

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box is available in the care room of the service and is easily accessible in the event of it being needed.

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 has been met.

(1)(a)

The registered provider is aware of the requirement to carry out monthly fire drills in the premises. There is a template in the service to record the monthly fire drills.

(b)

The annual record of the maintenance of the firefighting equipment in the service was carried out in October 2022. The annual record of the maintenance of the wired smoke alarm in the service was carried out in July 2023.

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	(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire is displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises at the entrance to the service.
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Part VI – Safety	
Regulation 28 – Insurance	
<i>A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.</i>	
Requirement not met:	The requirement for this regulation is not met. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change to the services registration. The change in circumstance is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 8.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements	
Regulation 29 – Premises	
<i>A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) of sound and stable structure,</i> <i>(b) safe and secure,</i> <i>(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,</i> <i>(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and</i> <i>(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.</i> 	
Requirement met:	The requirement of regulation is met. (a) The manager reports that the building is of a sound and stable structure. There are adequate storage facilities in the service. (b) The building is safe and secure. Access is gained through an intercom system. Visitors to the service can be observed through the glass doors at the entrance to the service.

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	<p>(c)</p> <p>The lighting is a combination of natural lighting from several windows and there are also fluorescent lights available in the early years rooms. The early years rooms have floor to ceiling openable doors which allow natural light in to all four early years rooms. The early years rooms are ventilated through openable windows and there are openable windows or mechanical ventilation provided in the children’s toilets.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>The premises is clean and well maintained. There is no evidence of repairs being required.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>There are sufficient toilets and sufficient nappy changing facilities for use by the early years children. There is one staff toilet for the exclusive use of the staff working in the service. There is liquid hand soap, paper towels and pedal bins available at all sinks.</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 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).*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met:

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Room	Measurements	Proposed age of children	No of sessional children that can be accommodated.	No of full day care children that can be accommodated.
Lady Bird	30.64 square meters	1 to 2 years		10
Caterpillar	34.40 square meters	2 to 3 years	19	14
Butterfly 1	50.31 square meters	3 to 6 years	22	21
Butterfly 2	42.86 square meters	3 to 6 years	22	18
Total			73	63

(1) There is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the service.

(2) The care rooms provide adequate clear floor space as specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 with reference to the proposed ages of children which the service will accommodate.

(3) The service has adequate floor space for the numbers of children proposed to be facilitated in the service during the full day care hours.

(4) The service has suitable space for the provision of both:

- (a) A sessional service.
- (b) Full day care/part-time service.