

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015KK030

Name of Service Gowran Preschool

Address of Service: Main Street, Gowran, Kilkenny, R95EH02.

Email Address: dmfenlon@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Deirdre Fenlon

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

Proposed change: Change of room which has been used as an office to a preschool classroom.

Proposed Number of Children: No proposed change in the maximum number of preschool children that can be accommodated, remains at 66.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: New proposed early years classroom approved.

Registered change: Change of room within service from office to preschool classroom

Date of Inspection:	2	5	0	8	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: Norma Thornton

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Early Years Inspectorate,
Athy Road,
Carlow.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time Service for 66 Children
Date of Registration	6 th September 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>Gowran Preschool is a registered part-time childcare service located on the main street of the village of Gowran in county Kilkenny. The service is open from 08:00 to 18:00 hours, operating sessional and part-time preschool services between the hours of 09:20 to 14:00 hours and provides a registered school age service. The service is open for 38 weeks of the year.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from building located on the main street, which has been adapted and extended to provide three spacious classrooms, a large outdoor play area and a designated, enclosed car park to the side of the premises.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are 11 staff members employed in the service, to work directly with the children, including the registered provider.</p> <p>Staff qualifications range from the minimum required Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) level 5 to level 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education.</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.</p>

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	<p>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 and designated person in charge 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.

The registered provider is the designated person in charge daily. A named person is proposed 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider shall ensure that there will be at least one qualified staff member working directly with the children, in the proposed new classroom. A second adult is available to provide extra support and relief for staff breaks or leave as required.

(8)(a) The registered provider demonstrated that there will be always at least two adults on the premises.

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.

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(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

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The proposed new classroom has been developed with clear identifiable areas of interest such as a home/ Kitchen area, rest area, construction table, and creative area. The proposed classroom was adequately resourced with a variety of age-appropriate play materials and equipment to enhance each thematic area and available for children to access on low-level shelves.</p> <p>(b) There was a designated rest area where the children could choose to relax on an appropriate child size soft seat and read. Stackable beds were also available should a child decide to sleep while attending the service.</p> <p>(3)(a) A suitable secure outdoor space was provided at the back of the premises which included a sheltered outdoor classroom .</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 has been met.</p> <p>The registered provider ensured that an adequate, suitable healthy eating policy was in place in the service. This is communicated to parents at the time of their child’s registration and enrolment in the service.</p> <p>A refrigerator was available for the safe storage of children’s lunches and perishable food items.</p> <p>The registered provider informed he inspector that when children are on the premises, that they have direct access to their drinking bottles in their classroom.</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 has been met.

General Safety.

1. The main door to the service with a keypad call system to prevent unauthorised access to the premises and to prevent any child from exiting unsupervised. Staff had full view of the car park and any potential visitors to the service through the large glass windows. The perimeter of the service and outdoor area was secured with an eight-foot metal fence and wall.

2. All emergency doors in the service were clearly lit and unobstructed.

3. The registered provider demonstrated that a risk assessment of the outdoor play area was carried out and documented daily.

4. There was a designated safe and secure storage area for cleaning materials and equipment, which was inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control.

1. Drinking water from the public water supply is readily available and accessible to the children and staff.

2. Liquid hand soap and paper hand towelling were observed in all the children's toilets and in the designated staff toilet. The proposed new classroom had one toilet and handwash basin which was supplied with liquid hand soap and paper hand towels.

3. There were designated hand sanitising stations, located just inside the main entrance door and at several locations in the service.

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4. The registered provider demonstrated that there were daily cleaning schedules of the service facilities and equipment, for which there was a documented record of.

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 as evidenced by the following.

(1) Documented evidence was available to demonstrate that eight staff members had completed the approved first aid responder (FAR) paediatric training course, the certificates for which were in date and on file.

The registered provider demonstrated that there was at least one to two staff members qualified in FAR training rostered to be always on site, to cover for staff leave or breaks.

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the office and is always available.

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:

(1)(a) The inspector observed that a record was available for the recording of monthly fire drills carried out in the service.

(b) A maintenance record was available for review, recording the maintenance of firefighting equipment and the fire detection alarm system was recorded as having been serviced on the 09 June 2023.

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(4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in four points within the service. A fire assembly point was observed in the outdoor space at the back of the building.

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 current insurance was available for inspection and documented that there was insurance cover available for 66 preschool children to attend a part-time service. The expiry date on the certificate was documented as 26 June 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) The registered provider stated that there were no issues identified in relation to the building structure.

(b)The entrance door to the premises was well secured to prevent any children exiting unsupervised and to prevent any unauthorised persons from entering the service.

(c)The service was naturally lit with several large windows. The natural light available was supplemented by ceiling lights, each with a protective cover. All the windows could be opened to provide natural ventilation. Heating was provided by an oil fuelled heating system with radiators which were inaccessible to the children and thermoregulated not to exceed 50°C.

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	<p>(d) There were cleaning schedules and records available demonstrating that the service was cleaned daily and maintained and repaired as required.</p> <p>(e) There were six existing designated children’s toilets, each with a hand wash basin, which were either naturally or mechanically ventilated. A separate designated staff toilet was provided, on the first floor where the kitchen and staff room were also located. The new proposed classroom had one child sized toilet and handwash basin.</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.

(3) 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:	<p>(1) There is adequate and clear floor space provided in the proposed new classroom for up to 11 early years children to attend a sessional early years service.</p> <p>(3) There is a total of 19.9 square metres of clear space provided in the proposed new classroom. There is a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space available for each of the 11 children in the new classroom to attend a sessional service. There is 2.3 square metres available for eight children aged 3 to 6 years to attend the classroom outside of the sessional hours.</p> <p>There is a total of 114 square metres available in three classrooms designated for the 66 preschool children attending the service.</p>
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