

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015KK076

**Name of Service** Talbots Gate Childcare and Early Learning Centre Limited

**Address of Service:** 31 Talbots Gate, Freshford Road, Kilkenny. R95D577

**Email Address:** talbotsgatechildcare@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Laura Fitzpatrick

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

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Increase in the amount of pre-school children that can be accommodated from 55 to 66
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	66
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	Increase in the amount of pre-school children that can be accommodated from 55 to 66
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in number of children attending from 66 (max 56 Full Day/Part-Time) children

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	3	0	0	8	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection undertaken by:** Norma Thornton  
**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Tusla Child and Family Agency,  
 Athy Road,  
 Carlow.

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
 Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional service for 66(Max 56 Full Day/Part-Time) children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	03 September 2024
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>	

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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Talbots Gate Childcare and Early Learning Centre is a registered childcare service located in the Talbots Gate housing estate on the Freshford road in Kilkenny city. The service provides sessional, part-time and full day care childcare services for children aged 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 07:45 to 18:00 hours, Monday to Friday for 52 weeks of the year. The service also is registered to provide a school age service.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The premises operates from two semi-detached residential houses which have been purpose built to provide a ground floor creche providing four classrooms. The first floor has been adapted to provide two classrooms.</p> <p>A separate side entrance is provided for the first floor of the building. There is an outdoor area provided at the back of the building.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The service has 12 staff members employed in the service including the registered provider and a chef. All staff members working directly with the preschool child hold qualifications ranging from Level 5 to Level 8 on the national Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) framework.</p>
<b>Methodology</b>	<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</p>

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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 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 preschool 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 always be an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(8)(a) The registered provider shall ensure that there are always at least two adults on the premises, while children attend the service.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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

#### Requirement met:

- (1)(a) In each of the classrooms, the inspector observed that there were clear identifiable areas of interest that provided children with age-appropriate opportunities for imaginative and creative play.
- Low-level shelving provided resources and materials to stimulate develop children's fine motor skills and cognitive development.
- (b) there was a designated sleep room in the service for children under the age of two years.
- (3)(a) A suitable and secure outdoor play area was provided at the back of the building which also provided interest areas such as an outdoor kitchen and construction area and wooden balance beams to physically challenge the children and promote gross motor development.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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:

A three-week menu plan was provided in the service and the menus were displayed on a notice board at the entrance of the pre-school for children and parents/ guardians to view.

The menus displayed offered a variety of nutritious meals over the course of a three-week cycle in line with the service's healthy eating policy, which included vegetable pasta with cheese, garlic bread and green beans, chicken casserole, beans, cheese and potatoes, chicken casserole, spaghetti Bolognese, creamy fish pie with mash or baby potatoes, cheese, broccoli and spinach past bake and beef mince and vegetable pie.

The evening meal menu also consisted of cheese toasties- wraps/ pastry swirls/pittas with sliced cucumber, beans and toast, boiled egg and toast soldiers, homemade pizza with vegetables and chicken, scrambled egg and toast or a plate of finger food which included, ham, cheese, tomato, cucumber, and homemade brown bread.

### 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:

General Safety.

The entrance to the service was secured with a keypad call system.

A reception area was located at the front of the service which was managed by the registered provider or designated person in charge. Both systems were implemented to prevent a child exiting the service unsupervised or to prevent an unauthorised person entering the premises.

The outdoor play area was secured with a locked side gate and high surrounding wall.

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

A daily risk assessment of the outdoor play area was carried out and a record maintained by the registered provider.

	<p>Infection Control.</p> <p>Drinking water from the public water supply is readily available and accessible to the children and staff. There were water stations provided in each classroom for the children to access independently.</p> <p>Liquid hand soap and paper hand towelling were observed in all the children’s toilets and in the designated staff toilets.</p> <p>The registered provider demonstrated that there were daily cleaning schedules of the service facilities and equipment, for which there was a documented record of.</p> <p>All cleaning materials and liquids were stored in designated storage areas safely out of the reach of children.</p> <p>There was an adequate infection control policy in place in the service which included toileting, nappy changing and handwashing policies in order to reduce the potential risk of infection in the service.</p>
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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 as evidenced by the following.

(1) Documented evidence was available to demonstrate that three staff members had completed the approved first aid responder (FAR) paediatric training course, the certificates for which, were currently 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) Three suitably equipped first aid boxes were available, two on the ground floor and one on the first floor.

**Part VI – Safety**

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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:

(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.

(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 70 preschool children to attend a full day care service. The expiry date on the certificate was documented as 27 March 2025.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 large windows in each classroom. 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 a gas fuelled heating system with radiators which were inaccessible to the children and thermoregulated not to exceed 50°C.

(d) There were cleaning schedules and records available demonstrating that the service was cleaned daily and maintained and repaired as required.

(e) There were two existing nappy changing rooms, which were mechanically ventilated, provided for children under two years of age. One was in the Wobbler room and the second which also contained a toilet for any children toilet training was located adjacent to the toddler room. Both contained a hand wash basin.

Between the playschool and preschool rooms located downstairs, there were two children’s toilets provided, with hand wash basins and upstairs an additional two children’s toilets and hand wash basins were provided. There was liquid hand soap dispensers and paper towelling available in all the sanitary facilities.

There were two designated staff toilets, one on the ground floor and one on the first floor.

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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.
- (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:

(1) There is adequate and clear floor space provided in the service for the proposed increase to 66 pre-school children.

(2)(a)(b) The following space requirements were provided in each of the classrooms for children attending the sessional service and part-time /full day care service.

Room Name	Age Range	Clear Space available (Square metres /sqm)	Max number of children. Sessional.	Max number of children. FDC/ PT
Wobbler Room	1-2 years	20sqm	N/A for sessional 7	7
Toddler Room	2-3 years	23.5 sqm	Calculate as per schedule 7 for sessional ECCE. 10	10
Playschool Room (ground floor)	3-4 years	26 sqm	14	11
Pre-school Room (ground floor)	4-5 years	22.3 sqm	12	9
Playschool Room (1 <sup>st</sup> floor)	3-4 years	18 sqm	10	8

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	Pre-school Room (1 <sup>st</sup> floor)	4-5 years	27 sqm	14	11
	<b>Max number of pre-school children, at any one time</b>			<b>67</b>	<b>56</b>