

# 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. R95 D577

**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"/>

**Proposed change:** Increase number of preschool children from 66 to 93 sessional and from 56 to 78 part-time/ full day care. Sessional hours -09:00 to 12:00.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 93 Sessional and 78 part-time /full day care.

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Maximum number of preschool is 93 (Max 78 full day/part-time) children

**Registered change:** Change in number of children from 56 to 93(Max 78 full day/part-time) children

**Date of Inspection:** 1 8 0 8 2 0 2 5

**Inspection undertaken by:** Norma Thornton

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

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

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

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 93 (Max 78 Full Day/Part-Time) Children
Date of Registration	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2025

### 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Talbots Gate Childcare and Early Learning Centre is a full day childcare service located in Kilkenny city. The service offers a sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) service, part-time and full day childcare service. The service is open from 07:45 to 18:00 hours with the sessional ECCE service operating between the hours of 09:00 to 12:00 hours, Monday to Friday for 52 weeks of the year.</p> <p>The service is also registered to provide a school age service.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service is comprised of two attached dwelling houses in the Talbots Gate housing estate which contain 4 classrooms on the ground floor and four classrooms on the first floor. There is an outdoor play area provided at the back of the premises.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>There are currently 13 staff employed in the service including the registered provider. It is proposed with the approval of two new classrooms that the staff will increase to 16 staff members.</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 deciding in relation to registering the change in circumstance. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received</p>

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	for reasons including clarity; completeness; and compliance with 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, 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>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement is 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	
<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>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.  The registered provider proposes to have 16 staff members employed to work directly with the proposed 93 preschool children during the sessional service and 78 preschool children during the part-time / full day care service hours.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service	
Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play	
<i>(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—</i> <i>(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</i> <i>(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.</i>  <i>(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—</i> <i>(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</i>	

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>(1) Both new classrooms, that have been created to facilitate the proposed increase in the number of preschool children that can attend the service, were observed to contain a variety of interest areas; desk top activities, art and creativity areas, role play areas, kitchen/home areas with appropriate play equipment, construction areas, and soft rest and reading areas.</p> <p>The equipment and toys in each of the two classrooms are stored on low-level shelving and are easily accessible to the children. There are appropriate tables and chairs provided for the children to sit and participate in tabletop activities and to comfortably enjoy their snacks and meals.</p> <p>The soft rest areas are situated away from the main play areas and are furnished with low couches and soft cushions so children can avail of opportunities to opt out of activities, relax and rest.</p> <p>(3) A secure outdoor play area is available at the back of the premises providing the children with some outdoor interest areas and space to move about freely.</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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The service provides the snacks and meals for children attending the part-time / full day care service in line with the service’s healthy eating policy. Children attending the sessional ECCE service bring their snacks from home. Information regarding suitable foods for snack time and the service’s healthy eating policy is provided to parents upon registration of their child at the service. There is a designated kitchen in the service, containing the required equipment for the storage and preparation of food in the service.</p> <p>The registered provider demonstrated that the service had a weekly menu plan, and parents are informed of the daily hot meal provided on a parents’ notice board.</p>
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# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 entrance to the service is located to the front of the service. Children attending the classrooms on the ground floor access their classrooms via the main door. Children attending the classrooms on the first floor access their classrooms via an entrance door, stairs and secured door to the right of the building. A call bell system is in operation for parents to ring, to gain access. Only staff are aware of the keypad codes and only staff possess key fobs to gain access to the classrooms. The outdoor play area is secured by two high gates at both gable ends. All door and gate keys were readily available to the staff working in the service.
2. All emergency doors and the external emergency fire stairs in the service were clearly lit and unobstructed.
3. The registered provider demonstrated that a risk assessment of the outdoor play area is 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 children's toilets, located across the three floors, and in the two designated staff toilets.
3. The registered provider demonstrated that there were daily cleaning schedules of the service facilities and equipment, which there was a documented record of.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.

Documented evidence was available to demonstrate that two staff members had current approved first aid responder (FAR) training, the certificates for which, were on file. The registered provider assured the inspector that there was at least one member of staff trained in first aid responder always onsite, while the service was operating. This was demonstrated on the staff roster available. The registered provider also stated that it was their intention to register additional staff for FAR training.

(2)(a) A first aid box was stored on the ground floor and on the first floor in visible accessible locations.

(b) The first aid boxes in each classroom were 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 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:

The requirement is 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 fire alarm system.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in three points within the service. A fire assembly point was in the car park area at the front of the building.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Requirement met:

An insurance quotation was available for review, for the proposed increase in the number of preschool children that can be accommodated. The approval is contingent on adequate insurance being in place prior to the commencement of the change.

### 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 has been met.

- (a) The registered provider confirmed that they knew of no structural defects and that the premises is structurally sound.
- (b) The entrance doors to the service have a doorbell call system. The system in place adequately secures the entrance to the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the premises, once managed appropriately.
- (c) The classrooms have large windows which provide natural lighting and ventilation. In each classroom there are long artificial ceiling lights, which are fitted with protective covers.
- (d) The service was observed to be in a well maintained and clean condition on the day of inspection. A daily cleaning schedule for all areas of the service, is managed by the registered provider and staff.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(e) There were adequate sanitary facilities provided on each floor of the service for the proposed number of children to attend.

In total they were three nappy changing areas, eight children's toilets and nine handwash basins in the service. Two designated staff toilets were also provided.

### 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.

(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.

(1) The total clear floor space available in the premises for work, play and movement of the children attending the service is adequate for the proposed 93 preschool children attending the service during the sessional ECCE hours of 09:00 to 12:00 hours and 78 preschool children attending the part-time /full day care service.

(4) The following clear floor space was available:

Room Name & Location	Size (Square Metres=M <sup>2</sup> )	Proposed Number of Children	Age Range	Sessional ECCE (09:00-12:00 hours)	Part-time /Full day Care	No. of Staff Required
Ground Floor						

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	Wobbler Room	20 M <sup>2</sup>	7	1-2 years	7	7	2
	Toddler Room 1	23.5 M <sup>2</sup>	10	2-3 years	10	10	2
	Toddler Room 2	26 M <sup>2</sup>	11	2-3 years	11 (1 toilet)	11	2
	Playschool	22.3 M <sup>2</sup>	11	3-6 years	11 (1 toilet)	9	Reg 11
	<b>First Floor</b>						
	<b>Playschool Full Day</b>	27.7 M <sup>2</sup>	15	3-6 years	15	12	2
	<b>Playschool Sessional</b>	22 M <sup>2</sup>	12	3-6 years	12	9	2
	<b>Pre-School Full Day</b>	30 M <sup>2</sup>	16	3-6 years	16	13	2
	<b>Pre-School Sessional</b>	23.6 M <sup>2</sup>	12	3-6 years	12	10	2
	<b>Total</b>	195 M <sup>2</sup>	94		94	81	16