

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2015KK101
-------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Green Acres
-------------------------	-------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Rathpatrick, Slieverue, Co Kilkenny
----------------------------	-------------------------------------

<b>Email Address:</b>	grettagreenacres@gmail.com
-----------------------	----------------------------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Gretta Mc Govern
-------------------------------------	------------------

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

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Extending the service to accommodate 11 children on a sessional basis
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	40
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	Approve change
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 29 to 40

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	7	0	2	2	0	2	4
----------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M. Ryan
<b>Title:</b>	Early years Inspector

<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Community Care Centre, HSE Buildings, Cork Road, Waterford City.
--	---

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
Change in Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care Service for 40 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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>	Green Acres is a privately owned service in a rural location approximately seven kilometres from Waterford City. The service opened in October 2005 and offers flexible full day, part day and sessional care. The registered provider proposes to increase the number of children attending the service by 11 pre-school children with the addition of a newly built room.
<b>Premises</b>	The service operates from a purpose-built childcare building adjacent to the registered provider's home. The building accommodates two childcare rooms, a kitchenette, toilet facility, sleep room and storage space. The third childcare room seeking registration is added to the rear of building.
<b>Staffing</b>	There are five staff currently available to work directly with the children in the service this includes the registered provider. A further two staff are employed to meet additional adult child ratios for the increase in numbers of re-registration.
<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.</p> <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>
<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.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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:

(1)

(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a second named staff member available 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:

(1)

The registered provider proposes to have two childcare staff working directly with the children to cater for the proposed 11 pre-school children that may attend the 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.

(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

#### Requirement met:

(1)(a)

The new room is located at the rear and is part of the current creche. The room provides sufficient space for the proposed number of children. The pre-school room is

warm, bright, spacious and lit by natural light. The room was set up and equipped with toys, and open-ended play materials suitable to the ages and stage of development of the children proposed to use the room.

(1)(b)

Provisions were in place for children to rest while attending the service. The new room will be used for children aged 3 to 5 years on a sessional basis in the morning. There were mats and cushions and a sofa in the quiet corner of the room. Children who need to sleep will be accommodated in one of the sleep rooms within the current creche building if required.

(3)(a)

The outdoor playground consisted of two large clear roofed sheltered spaces from either side of the main building. A large green area and cemented path were available at the rear of the building. The outdoor spaces had sufficient toys and equipment such as a playhouse, ride on toys, a kitchen and the interest areas were well developed and resourced. The outdoor play area is suitable, safe and secure with newly erected PVC coated chain link fencing and provides space, variety and stimulation for the children.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## 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.*

<b>Requirement Met:</b>	<p>There was a healthy eating policy for the service. There was a kitchen available within the attached creche building.</p> <p>This kitchen had a microwave and cooker to facilitate the reheating of food and refrigerators for the storage of perishable snacks provided by parents. One aspect of the room seeking registration had storage units and refrigeration for storage of children’s lunches provided by parents.</p>
-------------------------	--

### 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.*

<b>Requirement Met:</b>	<p><b>General safety:</b></p> <p>The external play area was secured from the registered provider’s home and gardens to the rear of the service to prevent children gaining unsupervised access to the road. The main front door was secured by a locking system that was out of children’s reach which restricted children from exiting the building unsupervised.</p> <p>All cleaning agents were stored on high shelves out of children’s reach in a cleaning storage area. All electrical sockets were fitted with safety covers.</p> <p><b>Infection control:</b></p> <p>Warm water for hand washing was available and was thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C (41°C on the day). The service was clean and well maintained. Cleaning schedules were available for viewing.</p> <p><b>Administration of medication:</b></p> <p>There was a policy on the safe administration of medications to children attending the service. An area for the safe storage of medication was identified. If a child requires</p>
-------------------------	--

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

administration of medicine on a regular basis, an individualised care plan is put in place in coordination with the parents.

### 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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

#### Requirement met:

- (1)
- (1) Documented evidence was available to demonstrate that four staff members had current first aid responder training FAR and the registered provider informed the inspector that two members will be always present on the premises.
- 2)(a)(b)
- A suitable and fully equipped first aid box was available on the premises and stored in an easily accessible cupboard in the kitchenette area out of children's reach.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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)

Records were available on the premises for recording of fire drills and the registered provider was familiar with the requirement to carry out monthly fire drills. The last documented fire drill in the building was 4 February 2024

(b)

Fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms were present, and contracts were in place for the regular service and maintenance of these.

(4)

A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the room.

### 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 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.**

**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:**

- (a)  
 The new room was constructed for the purpose of childcare provision and attached and opened into the current creche facility. The windows and doors were double glazed PVC. The building was wheelchair accessible with the provision of a permanent cement ramp. The service had a mechanical waste treatment water system.
- (b)  
 The main front door was secured by a locking system that was out of children’s reach which restricted children from exiting the building unsupervised. The external play area was secured from the registered provider’s home at the rear of the service to prevent children gaining unsupervised access to the road.
- (c)  
 The new room was lit and ventilated by natural light through four openable windows on the external wall of the room. Suitable artificial lighting was provided by four fluorescent ceiling lights that were covered by shatterproof diffusers. All sanitary accommodation had windows for natural ventilation. The heating system was ceiling mounted powered by solar panels and thermostatically controlled.
- (d)  
 The premises and play equipment were kept in clean and good repair. The internal walls of the premises had been recently painted in pale yellow colour that gave the service a welcoming freshness. A cleaning policy and schedule was available for the room seeking registration.

	<p>(e)</p> <p>The service had adequate sanitary accommodation for the proposed number of children and staff.</p>
--	--

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 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:**

(1)

Room Name	Age Range	Type of Service	Floor Space Available	Number of Children the space will accommodate
Pre-school room	2.5 -5 years	Sessional	34.82m <sup>2</sup> .	This is adequate clear floor space for 11 pre-school children proposing to be accommodated.

(2)

Adequate clear floor space was available in this room for children aged between 2.5 to 5 years. Therefore, the service was compliant with the minimum space requirements for sessional care in this room.

(3)

Adequate clear floor space at a minimum of 1.818 m<sup>2</sup> was available for 11 children aged 2.5 to 5 years.