

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015KY115

Name of Service St. Brigid's Pre-school Crèche

Address of Service: Hawley Park, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Email Address: stbrigidschildcare@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Angela Walsh

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: Change of Early Years Preschool children to a new room downstairs.

Proposed Number of Children: 106 - No change

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Approve change

Registered change: Change of location of Early Years Preschool children to a new room downstairs

Date of Inspection:	0	2	0	4	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: N. Reidy & E. Friel

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 106 Children
Date of Registration	2 nd May 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).

Description of Service	This community based early years service is registered to provide sessional, part-time and full day care to children aged between 0 and 6 years. The service is open Monday to Friday inclusive between the hours of 8:30 am and 6pm.
Premises	There are 4 playrooms in operation, 3 on the ground floor and 1 on the 1st floor. There are designated outdoor play areas on the premise allocated for the children's use. The proposed new room to accommodate the 22 children currently attending the pre-school room upstairs is located on the ground floor.
Staffing	There are currently 13 adults attached to the early years service who are involved in the direct care of the children. The registered provider is not service based and does not work directly with the children who attend the setting.
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. 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>
Additional Information	The service was found to be operating the change prior to approval from the registration office.
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge and staff 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The service has a designated person in charge and there is a named person who is able to deputize 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The designated person in charge confirmed that 3 adults will work directly with the children on a daily basis in the pre-school room downstairs. The names of the 3 adults were furnished to the inspectors.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) Having regard to the number of attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there were adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The playroom was laid out in clearly defined areas examples of which included construction, puzzle, home corner, science and sensory exploration. • Each area was well resourced with play materials and resources which were age and stage appropriate and easily accessed from low-level shelving. The areas offered stimulation, exploration and opportunities for the children to flex their imagination and curiosity. <p>The children will have shared access to three outdoor play areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-school Garden, Secret Garden and the Creche outdoor play area. • All of the outdoor play areas provide an alternative change of environment for the children. • Both the Pre-school Garden and the Creche outdoor play area have concrete surfaces while the Secret Garden offers a grass surface with safety matting under the slide and swings, both areas are fully enclosed. A range of developmentally appropriate equipment. Examples included swings, a slide, tricycles, scooters, rockers and balls promoting a range of gross motor skills. <p>(b) A designated rest area was available in one corner of the playroom and consisted of soft seating, a large floor rug, cushions and blankets. There are three low level beds with individual linen available for the children over two years who require a rest.</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:

The requirement has been met.

- The service has a healthy eating policy.
- The service will provide a hot main meal to the children who propose to remain in the room on a part-time basis. A sample menu of the main meals cooked each day in the kitchen was furnished to the inspectors. The parents/guardians of the

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>children will provide food for the morning meal and additional food will be available as is required, for example, crackers, cheese, fruit and toast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fridge is in place in the proposed playroom for the storage of perishable food items. • Drinking water will be freely available, the person in charge confirmed that drinking water is available at the adult height sink in the room and that the children’s individual re-fillable drink’s bottles will be stored within allocated baskets on the low-level open shelving in place in the room.
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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:	<p>The requirement has been partially met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The windows in the playroom were fitted with window restrictors. • The new floor covering was in good condition and was non-slip. • All of the indoor play equipment was in good condition and well maintained. • Flexes and cables were in good condition and were inaccessible to the proposed children. • Anti-febrile medication was available in the service. • Cleaning agents were stored on high shelves, out of reach of the children. • The kettle was stored in the kitchen, out of reach of the children. • Emergency lighting and signage were available. • The Pre-school Garden area was secured with concrete walls and a bolted gate, and the Creche play area was secured with high metal fencing and wooden panelling with two bolted gates. • A fire assembly point was being designated on the day of inspection by the fire safety officer.
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Requirement not met:	<p>Indoors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The access control automated door system was not in operation on the day of inspection. This represented a safety risk as unauthorised adults could enter the playroom and the building, and the children could leave the playroom and the building unsupervised. The engineers were in the building at the time of inspection and indicated to the manager that the system would be reviewed. (2) A hook was missing from the hook and eye system on the indoor playroom, posing a safety issue as the door could not be secured to prevent children from exiting. (3) Three erected buggies were obstructing a fire exit door in the main corridor, preventing the quick evacuation of adults and children in the event of an emergency. (4) Three brown cube storage units on entry into the playroom were not anchored posing a potential tipping hazard. (5) A storage cupboard in the main corridor was not locked posing a safety hazard as there were three rows of six chairs stored in the cupboard, which could be easily accessed by the children. <p>Outdoors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (6) There were two rusted broken hooks protruding from a wall in the outdoor Pre-school Garden play area, posing a safety risk as they were located at the same height as the children. (7) A windowsill, accessible to the children, on the walkway to the secret garden was broken and jagged, posing a safety risk should a child injure themselves on the jagged area of the broken sill. (8) There were branches of bushes poking through a metal railing in the secret garden posing a risk of injury should a child come into contact with them while playing in the area. (9) There was a gap in the temporary fencing in the Secret Garden which led to a piece of wasteland with rubble and thorn bushes, posing a safety risk should a child exit the play area and come into contact with the thorn bushes.
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>(10) The lid was missing from the sand box in the Secret Garden area, posing a risk of contamination from foreign material.</p> <p>(11) Two children’s football nets in the Secret Garden were broken and trailing on the ground posing a tripping hazard.</p> <p>(12) The outdoor Secret Garden was generally unkept with broken play equipment strewn around the area, posing tripping hazards.</p> <p>(13) A low-lying loose wire was hanging from a wall enroute to the Creche outdoor play area posing a tripping hazard to the proposed children.</p> <p>(14) At the entrance to the Creche outdoor play area there was a broken scooter and pile of artificial grass left lying in a corner, posing a tripping hazard.</p> <p>(15) A bait box lying on the pathway was accessible to the children enroute to the Creche outdoor play area, posing a safety hazard as there may have been residue left behind.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>(1) The security team did visit on 26.4.'24 to fix the automated door system in the centre.</p> <p>(2) The hook and eye will not be required as a keypad coded system was installed outside the door.</p> <p>(3) The buggies have been moved away from the fire exit door. A outside buggy covered area to be erected.</p> <p>(4) The storage units have been screwed together and are secure.</p> <p>(5) All the contents were removed from the cupboards to accommodate storage for the pre-school and locks are in place.</p> <p>(6) The hooks on the wall have been removed and have been replaced have been placed at a higher level.</p> <p>(7) The windowsill has been repaired with concrete, the sharp edges were sanded and painted.</p> <p>(8) The maintenance staff have cut back the overhanging branches.</p> <p>(9) The fencing has been secured so as a child is unable to exit the play area.</p> <p>(10) A suitable cover is available for the sand box when it will be in use.</p> <p>(11) The football nets have been repaired.</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>(12) The secret garden has been tidied up.</p> <p>(13) The cable has been secured.</p> <p>(14) The scooter and artificial grass have been removed. The maintenance staff will ensure the paths are swept, power hosed and clear of any debris.</p> <p>(15) The bait box will be put in a sealed box during the day and put out at night. It will be stored away by the maintenance staff where the children have no access to it.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>Documentation and photographic evidence have been submitted in respect of each of the points above.</p> <p>The requirement has been met.</p>

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) The certifications were furnished to the inspectors to evidence that two of the three staff members had completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box provided, it was stored on a high-level shelf in the playroom out of the reach of the children.

(b) The suitably equipped first aid box was available in the service.

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.

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 fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Requirement met:	The requirement has been partially met. (1) (a) The person in charge had a template document available to record the monthly fire drills which will take place in the service. (b) The commissioning of the firefighting equipment dated 17.08.2023 was available.
Requirement not met:	(1) (a) The record in respect of the service of the smoke alarms was not furnished to the inspectorate.
Response from Provider:	A copy of the service of the smoke alarm service carried out on 2.4.2024 was forwarded to the inspectorate.
Summary Comment:	The requirement has been met.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. The service is currently insured for 150 children, at any one time. The expiry date was recorded as 15 March 2025.
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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 partially met. (a) Visually the building appeared to be sound and stable.
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>(c) The artificial lighting in place in the playroom consisted of six covered lights, natural lighting via four low level secured windows with a tilt and turn opening mechanism and four high level windows.</p> <p>The lighting in the sanitary accommodation consisted of three enclosed lights. There was a ceiling mechanical ventilation and a wall vent provided. The heating source in the playroom was from oil central heating to low level fully enclosed radiators located under the low-level windows.</p> <p>(d)The service appeared clean and dry. The cleaning schedules were available for the service that detailed the areas and the materials and equipment to be cleaned.</p> <p>(e) There was 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins allocated for the children’s use and 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins available for the adults on the ground floor. There was a wall mounted foldable nappy changing unit with a changing mat located within the children’s sanitary accommodation. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available at the wash hand basins, the temperature was recorded between 23 degrees Celsius and 26 degrees Celsius. A supply of soap, disposable paper hand towels and pedal operated lidded bins were provided at each of the sinks.</p> <p>(b) The dedicated proposed outdoor play areas with the exception of the secret garden were secured with fencing, concrete walls and gates.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(c)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.The air temperature of the playroom was recorded between 15 and 15.4 degrees Celsius. The person in charge informed that the oil was depleted and was due to be delivered later on the day of the inspection. 2. The air temperature of the children’s sanitary accommodation was recorded at 14.6 degrees Celsius. There was no means of heating provided in the room. <p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. A section of the ceiling in the playroom was cracked and the paint was peeling off. 4. The plasterboard in the children’s sanitary accommodation was not painted. 5. Within one of the children’s toilet cubicles, there was no closure device on the door and the drainage pipe attached to the toilet was exposed and not enclosed.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Response from Provider:	<p>(c)</p> <p>(1) The heating is now working, a part for the boiler required replacement.</p> <p>(2) The heating source for this area are two heating pipes located high above the cubicles that heat the area to a temperature of 19.9 degrees Celsius.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>(3) Work was completed by the builder on the ceiling.</p> <p>(4) The children’s bathroom has been painted.</p> <p>(5) A lock that can be opened from the outside has been fitted on the door. The drainage pipe has been covered and painted.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>Documentation and photographic evidence were submitted in respect of each of the points above.</p> <p>The requirement has been met.</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*
- (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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space was provided in the proposed care room for the children to work, play and move.</p>
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>(2) The available floor space meets the minimum floor space requirement for children who will be attend the new playroom. The proposed care room was measured at 44.81 m².</p> <p>(4) It is proposed by the registered provider that the service will contemporaneously provide both a sessional and part-time service. Adequate floor space is available for the proposed 22 children, aged 2 years 8 months to 5 years, to attend on a sessional basis and for 19 of these 22 children to attend on a part-time basis.</p>
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