

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015KY123

Name of Service Tír na nÓg Preschool

Address of Service: O'Brennan's National School, Kilduff, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
V92 AE73

Email Address: tirnanogschool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Noelia Dura Cabrera

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

Proposed change: Change of room within the same address.

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Register new room

Registered change: Change in service location within same premises

Date of Inspection: 3 0 1 1 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: E. Friel

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 13 Market Square,
Mallow
Cork. P51 DD5Y

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	18 th December 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	Tír na nÓg Preschool currently operates as a private early years service which provides sessional care from 8.45 am until 11.45 pm, Monday to Friday, facilitating the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE), 38 weeks of the year. While registered to accommodate children aged from 2 years to 6 years of age children currently attending are aged from 2 years 6 months to 6 years of age.
Premises	<p>The service operates from within O'Brennan's National School, which is located in Kilduff, near Tralee, County Kerry. Previously, the service was situated in a large, bright, classroom on the ground floor of the national school with adequate children and adult sanitary facilities.</p> <p>The registered provider has submitted a proposal to move the service to the upstairs library/resource room that has a folding partition, which is opened fully at all times. Two children's toilets are located within the large area and the adult toilet is located along the main corridor. There is a fully enclosed, designated, outdoor play area located at the side of the school for use by the early years children. A carpark is located within the grounds of the school.</p>
Staffing	There are two adults and one AIM Support Worker working directly with the children and the registered provider was available to facilitate the inspection process.
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</p>

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	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.
Additional Information	Correspondence from the registered provider was received by the Registration Office on 21 September 2023 informing the Office that the service had commenced operation of the service from a new room within the same building without approval from the Registration Office.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, deputy, 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. (1) (a) The designated person in charge is the registered provider and the named person is the deputy.
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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 registered provider will ensure that there are, at all times, an adequate number of adults working directly with the 22 sessional children who will be attending the sessional service. The registered provider has stated that there will be three adults working with the 22 children. Details of the three adults were available on the notice board in 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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)
(a) The proposed classroom, previously known as the library/resource room, was set out in clearly defined areas with equipment and resources, which were age and stage appropriate. The resources and equipment were arranged on low-level shelving making them easily accessible to the children. Additional toys and resources were available on the upper shelves of the built-in storage cupboards located at the side of the classroom.

Children have use of the Physical Education Hall during inclement weather and there is a designated secure outdoor play area located at the side of the national school. A range of developmentally appropriate equipment was provided in the fully enclosed

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outdoor area including tricycles, a hexagonal climbing frame and a slide and tunnel for practicing gross motor skills. Sensory materials including sand and stones were available in covered areas and a mud kitchen was available providing opportunities for imaginary play.

(b) Soft furnishings were available in the rest/quiet area of the proposed classroom including two foldable mats, and a bean bag. A book rack was located in the area with age and stage appropriate books for the children to look at while resting.

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 and food for snacks are provided by parents/guardians.
- A large fridge is available for storing perishable food.
- Water is available, from individually labelled water bottles, which were easily accessible on a shelf inside the main entrance door of the service.

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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:

- All internal and external doors were fitted with keypads preventing unauthorised adults from entering the building and proposed classroom and unsupervised children from leaving the service.
- The service fire doors were operated with a thumb twist cylinder and an electronic switch.
- All fire exit doors were unobstructed, facilitating the quick evacuation of children and adults in the event of a fire/emergency.
- The four large windows in the proposed classroom were fitted with window restrictors and the blind cords for each window were secured with hooks, out of reach of the children.
- A second handrail had been added to the main staircase to enable the early years children to go up and down the stairs safely.
- The staircase was well lit and the linoleum floor covering appeared in good condition.
- All toys, both indoors and outdoors, appeared in good condition.
- Heavy equipment, including shelving, was anchored to the walls.
- All flexes including the Christmas tree flex were inaccessible to the children.
- Indoor waste was stored in pedal operated bins.
- The outdoor play area was secured with high metal fencing and metal gates with bolts which were inaccessible by the children.

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Infection Control:

The following were available in the proposed classroom:

- Children and adults had access to thermostatically controlled hot water: with the water in the taps of the two children's wash hand basins recorded at 37°C and the water in the tap of the adult sink recorded at 38°C.
- Suitable storage, off the floor, for the children's personal belongings including hats, coats and bags.
- Single use disposable gloves and aprons for use in the children's sanitary area, if required. There are currently no children attending the service who required nappy changing.
- A large refrigerator was available for storing perishable foods.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) A certificate was available to evidence that an adult with First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available at all times.

(2)

(a) (b) A well-stocked first aid box positioned on the wall of the classroom was available at all times.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) A record of the monthly fire drills was available in the proposed classroom in the fire record book with the last fire drill recorded on 28 November 2023.

(b) The number, type and maintenance records of firefighting equipment and smoke alarm certificates were both dated 3 December 2023.

(4) The notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were available in the proposed classroom opposite the fire exit door.

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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 22 sessional children, with an expiry date of 27 March 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:

- (a) The building appeared visually to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The main entrance doors to the building and the proposed classroom were secured with keypads and the outdoor play area was secured with high metal fencing and a bolted gate which was inaccessible to the children.
- (c) The proposed classroom has both natural and artificial lighting provided by four large windows and seven large double tubular covered lights. The national school hallways and classrooms are served with the same natural and artificial lighting systems. The sanitary areas are lit with single covered lights.

The proposed classroom is heated by two radiators which have protective covers and are heated with oil. The temperature of the radiators was recorded at 28°C, while the room temperature was recorded as 19.4°C, within the recommended limits of 18°C to 22°C. All areas have natural ventilation from openable windows.
- (d) Cleaning records detailing daily and weekly cleaning schedules were available and up to date with a certificate dated 21 September 2023 to confirm rodent proofing was in place.

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	<p>(e) There are two children’s toilets with wash hand basins located within the classroom area in a separate sanitary area, each one fitted with an individual cubicle and door. The adult toilet is available along the corridor from the classroom. All wash hand basins and sinks are fitted with thermostatically controlled hot water, dispensing soap, paper towels in dispensers and pedal operated bins. Step-ups were also available at the children’s wash hand basins. The service has a policy of taking children who are toilet trained, which was noted in their Nappy Changing policy. However, they stated they will, if required, change children in pull- ups while toilet training.</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) 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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) On morning of the inspection there were eighteen children in attendance. Adequate clear floor space was available for the work, play and movement of the sessional children.</p> <p>(3) The proposed classroom measured 61.68 m² providing adequate clear floor space, ensuring that a minimum of 1.818 m² of clear floor space is available for each of the 22 sessional children registered in the service.</p>
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