

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015LD001

Name of Service Tir na N'og

Address of Service: Harmony House Community Centre, St. Michaels Road,
Longford, N39 PQV3.

Email Address: harmonyhousepreschool@yahoo.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Margaret McCoppin

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

Proposed change: The service proposes to operate a part-time service.
The service proposed a change in hours of operation to 9:00am – 13:00 hours.

Proposed Number of Children: 33 children attending on a sessional basis.
26 children attending on a part-time basis.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Not approved.

Registered change: No Change, Application Withdrawn

Date of Inspection:	2	1	1	0	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: Therese Duignan

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus,
Springfield, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	No Change - Registered Sessional Service for 33 Children
Date of Registration	16th December 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).

Description of Service	Tir na Nog is a community operated preschool in Longford and provides a sessional service for children from 9:00am - 12:00hrs for children aged between 2 to 6 years of age.
Premises	The service is located in a purpose-built premises. Two playrooms called room 1 and room 2 are located on the ground floor with the sanitary accommodation. The school age room is on the first floor. The office, kitchen, school age care room and sanitary accommodation are located on the first floor. A large enclosed outdoor area is located at the rear of the premises and the two care rooms have direct entry to it.
Staffing	The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises daily. There is a named person in charge and a deputy person in charge. There is a total of five staff (including the person in charge) working in the premises with one person employed for administration duties.
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</p>

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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

(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 registered provider ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
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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 is met. (1) The registered provider shall ensure that there will be at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service
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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

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(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:

The requirement is met.

(1)

(a) Rooms 1 and 2 had suitable play materials and equipment displayed on low level shelving and accessible to children. A sufficient number of child-size tables and chairs to cater for the number of children attending is available.

(b) A sleep mattress and bed linen is available for any child over 2 years of age requiring a period of sleep when attending on a part time basis.

The rest areas in rooms 1 and 2 consist of child sized sofas with soft mats which are available for any child wishing to take a break from activities and to rest.

(3)(a) Rooms 1 and 2 have access to the outside play area, which was safe, suitable and secure.

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 is met.

The service has a healthy eating policy in place.

Parents will be requested to provide one healthy snack for children attending on a sessional basis and a lunch for the children attending on a part-time basis. Water is freely available to the children at all times.

A fridge is available for the storage of the children's food.

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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 not been met.

Access to the pre-school service is controlled by staff at the main entrance to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The proposed outdoor area is suitably secured with a high perimeter wall and a secured gate.

There is sufficient storage space in the premises for cleaning materials and equipment, arts and crafts resources for the service and the sleep equipment.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper towels hygienically dispensed from wall mounted dispensers are available for the hygienic hand washing and drying at the sinks in the proposed sanitary areas.

Foot pedal operated bins are located in rooms 1 and 2 for the hygienic and safe disposal of used paper hand towel, tissues and waste.

Refrigerators are provided in rooms 1 and 2.

The registered provider is managing pest control for the premises and written records are maintained.

The premises is maintained in a clean and hygienic condition, and a detailed cleaning schedule is in place for rooms 1 and 2.

The fire exits are clearly marked and unobstructed.

Requirement not met:

1. There were no window restrictors on the first window on the left-hand side of room 2 and on the windows in the sanitary area adjacent to room 2.
2. A bottle of bleach and deodorants were observed on a windowsill in the sanitary area adjacent to room 2 and required to be removed and safely stored out of the reach of children.
3. Toilet brushes were observed on the floor in the three toilet cubicles in the sanitary area adjacent to room 2 and were accessible to a preschool child.

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	<p>4. The facility for nappy changing required to be reviewed as a nappy change mat was placed on top of a chest of drawers which was not large enough for a preschool child in the age range attending the service to be safely changed.</p> <p>5. A foot pedal operated nappy disposal bin was required for the hygienic disposal of soiled nappies.</p> <p>6. Personal belongings were observed to be stored in the sanitary area adjacent to room 2 which was not acceptable for infection control purposes.</p>
Response from Provider:	Telephone call to person in charge on Friday 5 December 2025 as no response received to the draft inspection report FFP CIC issued on 13 November 2025. The person in charge on behalf of the registered provider does not wish to proceed with the proposed change in service type.
Summary Comment:	Requirement not met.

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:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1) An adult working in the service has current certification in first aid for children (FAR).</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is available and accessible to children in the service.</p>
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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 is met.

(1)

(a) Documentation was available for recording monthly fire drills.

(b) There were maintenance records available of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm, which were 15 November 2024 and 5 September 2025, respectively.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was clearly displayed in the outdoor area.

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.

An insurance certificate 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.

The registered provider had evidence of insurance cover for 33 children. The insurance cover was valid from 28 March 2025 – 27 March 2026.

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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:

- (a) Visually, rooms 1 and 2 and the premises were in a state of good repair.
- (b) Rooms 1 and 2 are located in the building and are secured from unauthorised entry by a buzzer entry, electronically secured main door which is controlled by staff members.
- (c) There were three openable windows in the room 1 and two openable windows in room 2 providing natural daylight and ventilation.
Five strip ceiling lights encased with protective covers are in place in room 1 and three strip ceiling lights encased with protective covers are in place in room 2 to provide additional artificial lighting.
The sanitary area adjacent to room 2 is ventilated by three openable windows.
The sanitary area adjacent to room 1 is ventilated by a mechanical ventilation unit.
Environmental temperatures in all areas were maintained between the required 18-22 degrees Celsius.
- (d) There is a system in place to manage repairs and maintenance in the service. Daily cleaning schedules are in place for rooms 1 and 2 and the adjoining shared sanitary area.
- (e) The sanitary facilities provided in rooms 1 and 2 include:
 - 4 toilets and 4 wash hand basins designated for children’s use.
 - A nappy changing unit is located in one toilet cubicle in the sanitary facilities adjacent to room 2.
 - One toilet with one wash hand basin designated for adult use are available in the service.

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Requirement not met:	<p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The floor covering in room 2 was torn at the edge on the right-hand side of the room under the radiator. The edge of the floor covering was not sealed flat at the entrance to the sanitary area in room 2 and presented a potential trip hazard. 2. The pipework in the sanitary areas was exposed and required to be boxed in. 3. The toilet seat in the sanitary area adjacent to room 1 was loose and required to be repaired. 4. The door on the press used for storage under the sink unit in room 2 was not secured. <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. There was no designated wash hand basin available for the nappy changing facility in the sanitary area adjacent to room 2.
Response from Provider:	<p>Telephone call to person in charge on Friday 5 December 2025 as no response received to the draft inspection report FFP CIC issued on 13 November 2025. The person in charge on behalf of the registered provider does not wish to proceed with the proposed change in service type.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>Requirement not 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 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.*
- (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).*

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Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1), (3)

1. Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend rooms 1 and 2 as demonstrated below:

Room 1	Clear floor space	36 m²
Room 2	Clear floor space	26 m²

(4)(a)(b)

2. The required floor space of rooms 1 and 2 (when combined) to enable a maximum number of 33 children aged 2 years 8 months to 6 years attending for the Early Childhood Care and Education programme on a sessional basis is met.
3. The required floor space of rooms 1 and 2 (when combined) to enable a maximum number of 26 children aged 2 - 3 years of age attending for part time care is met.
4. The required floor space of rooms 1 and 2 (when combined) to enable a maximum number of 27 children aged 3-6 years of age attending for part time care is met.