

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015LH081

Name of Service: Redeemer Creche & Playgroup

Address of Service: Ashling Park, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Email Address: mandys@redeemercreche.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Mandy Stevenson

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

Proposed change:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The registered provider proposes to increase the number of preschool children attending from 60 to 68. To develop an existing room on the premises to cater for the proposed increase in numbers.
Proposed Number of Children:	68
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Approve all changes
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 60 to 68.

Date of Inspection: 1 8 0 9 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: M. Flood
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Child Wellbeing Centre, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Service for 68 Children
Date of Registration	10 th October 2023

Authority to Inspect			
	Child and Family Agency Act 2013 Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016	Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)	1 of 8

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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	<p>The Redeemer Crèche and Playgroup is a community-based service, managed by a voluntary committee and in operation since 1991. The service provides Full day care, Part- time and Sessional care to Pre-school children aged 6 months -6 years. The maximum number of children that be accommodated is 60 and the service operates from 8.00am – 5pm.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to increase the number of preschool children attending from 60 to 68.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from a purpose-built childcare facility within a residential area of Dundalk town. There is off street parking available for parental drop off and collection. There are 4 care rooms in operation namely The Waddler Room, The Toddler Room and the Junior and Senior Pre-school Rooms. Ancillary accommodation consists of a dedicated sleep room off the Waddler Room, sanitary facilities, storage areas, a kitchen, a reception area and office space. The children have access to 2 separate outdoor play areas on the premises.</p> <p>A redeveloped room on the ground floor namely “The Baby Room” is proposed to cater for the increased numbers.</p>
Staffing	<p>The service employs 13 childcare staff including the designated person in charge who work directly with the preschool children. Ancillary staff are also employed in the service.</p>
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>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the designated person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

Part III - Management and Staff

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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 requirement has been met. The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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 requirement has been met.

It is proposed that 13 adults including the designated person in charge will be available to work directly with the pre-school children. The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 and 2 of Schedule 6.

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.

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

(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

(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement has been partially met.

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	<p>The preschool children have access to adequate and suitable facilities for play both indoors and outdoors on the premises. The playrooms are laid out with an adequate number of tables and chairs, some defined interest areas which are well supported with toys and equipment. A variety of developmentally appropriate equipment and tabletop toys are also available.</p> <p>(b) There are 2 separate sleep rooms on the ground floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sleep room directly off the Waddler room contains 4 standard cots. • The newly developed sleep room off the Baby Room contains 5 standard cots. <p>A number of day beds are also available for the children over 2 years of age to access if required.</p> <p>Additional soft /rest areas are located in the playrooms and consist of soft mats and cushions.</p> <p>(3) The pre-school children have access to 2 suitable and enclosed outdoor areas on the premises.</p> <p><u>Area 1:</u> Is located off the Waddler Room on the ground floor. The area is walled, gated, and fenced and has a variety of surfaces including grass, safety matting and concrete steps. A variety of age-appropriate play equipment is available including, tyres for climbing, a mud kitchen, planted boxes, some ride on and push along toys. A storage shed in the area also contains toys and equipment. A partially covered area is available for use in all types of weather.</p> <p><u>Areas 2:</u> Is located off ECCE Room 2 on the first floor. This roof top play area is walled and secured and has a safety surface, which is gated and fenced. A variety of toys and equipment are also provided.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(3)A large pool of water was observed on the surface of outdoor area 2 which is located on the first floor off ECCE Room 2.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>The registered provider submitted the following response together with photographic evidence via email:</p> <p>Area was clean and the drainage was unblocked. This work was completed by 23/09/2023.</p>
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>Based on the information submitted the regulatory requirement has been met.</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. All snacks and lunches are provided by the parents for the children attending the service on a sessional and full day care basis. A refrigerator is available in the kitchen area for the appropriate storage of perishable items. Potable drinking water is available in the service. It is proposed that infant formula bottles will be provided by the parents 'ready made up' and stored in the refrigerator.

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:

- The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children exiting from the service unsupervised or to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- All internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas.
- The designated emergency exits were clear and unobstructed.
- A supply of thermostatically controlled hot water to a maximum of 43 °C is available in the service.
- No trailing cables, wires or flexes were accessible to the preschool children.
- All openable windows on the first floor were inaccessible or fitted with restrictive devices.

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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:

The requirement has been met.
The service had a number of staff with up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training, available to the preschool children in the service at all times.
A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the service and stored in a safe and conspicuous location.

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.
A recording system is in place to maintain a record of monthly fire drills.
A maintenance record for the fire- fighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available and was dated 07/2023.
A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was available in the service. The fire assembly point was clearly identified and visible.

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. Documentary evidence was available of adequate insurance cover for 68 pre-school children for full day care.

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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. On visual inspection the building appeared to be sound and stable. The premises was safe and secure. The premises was adequately lit by means of natural lighting and supplemented by artificial lighting. All lights were fitted with protective covers. The premises were heated by means of gas-fired central heating. Ventilation was provided by means of open able windows and doors and an additional mechanical ventilation fan in the sanitary areas. The premises was found in a clean condition and in good repair. There were an adequate number of toilets, nappy changing facilities and wash hand basins available for the proposed number of children attending the service.
Requirement not met:	The requirement has not been met. (c) 1. The mechanical ventilation fan in the newly developed nappy changing area was not working.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider submitted the following response together with photographic evidence via email: A maintenance company was hired to check the ventilation system. They diagnosed an issue with the timer sensor which required an electrician to reset this. This work was completed on 26/09/2023.
Summary Comment:	Based on the information submitted the regulatory requirement has been met.

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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.
- (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.
- (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).
- (5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:

A total of 21.13m² clear floor space is available in the proposed newly developed Baby Room. This ensured that there is sufficient space to cater for 6 preschool children aged 0-1 year for full day care.

The following clear floor space is available in the existing rooms:

The Waddler Room: A total of 29.39 m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 10 preschool children aged 1-2years on a full day care basis.

The Toddler Room: A total of 28.75m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 12 preschool children aged 2-3 years on a full day care basis.

ECCE Room 1: A total of 32.17m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 17 preschool children attending on a sessional care basis.

ECCE Room 2: A total of 44.88m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 24 preschool children aged 3-6 years attending on a sessional care basis.

Based on this information adequate clear floor space is available to cater for the proposed 68 preschool children.