

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015LH086

**Name of Service:** Shapes and Sizes

**Address of Service:** 57 Mill Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth, A91E803

**Email Address:** Babakelly63@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Barbara Kelly

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

**Proposed change:** The registered provider proposes to change the age profile of children attending the service from 3 - 6 years to 1 year 6 months to 6 years.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 44

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Change in Age Profile from 3-6 years to 1-6 years

**Registered change:** Change in Age Profile from 3-6 years to 1-6 years

**Date of Inspection:** 0 9 0 5 2 0 2 5

**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, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 44 (Max 40 Full Day/Part-Time) Children

**Date of Registration:** 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Shapes and Sizes has been registered as an Early Years' service since July 2002. The service provides sessional, part-time and full day care and education to pre-school children. The service operates from 8am - 6pm Monday - Friday and caters for a maximum of 44 preschool children.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to change the age profile of children attending the service from 3 - 6 years to 1 year 6 months to 6 years.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	The service operates from a 2 storey purposely renovated building in a residential area of Dundalk, Co. Louth. The premises consist of 4 care rooms namely, The Toddler Room and Playgroup Room on the ground floor and The Preschool and Montessori Rooms 1 & 2 on the 1st floor. Ancillary accommodation includes sanitary areas, a kitchen and dining area, staff room and storage. There is an enclosed outdoor play area on the premises
<b>Staffing</b>	There are 11 members of staff employed in the service including the registered provider.
<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. 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>Additional Information</b>	The service was found to be operating the change prior to approval from the Registration Office.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector would like to acknowledge the co-operation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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

### 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 10 staff 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.

(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:**

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

The preschool children have access to adequate and suitable facilities for play both indoors and outdoors on the premises. The 4 playrooms are spacious and purposively developed with specific areas of interest e.g. a home area, a construction section, role play area, art and tabletop activities section. The areas are adequately supported with play materials and equipment. Tables and chairs are suitable for the proposed age profile of the children attending the service.

(b)

- The children have access to a soft /rest area which is located within each of the playrooms and consists of soft mats and cushions.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A standard cot is available for children under 2 years to access for sleep as required. A floor bed suitable for children aged over 15 months is also available.</li> <li>• Stackable day beds are available for children aged over 2 years to use if required.</li> </ul> <p>3. (a) A suitable safe and secure outdoor area is available for the children to access on the premises. A range of age-appropriate toys and equipment is also available.</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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	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.
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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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met: The following are examples of appropriate measures that have been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The external doors are appropriately secured to prevent children exiting from the service unsupervised or to prevent unauthorised access to the service.</li> <li>• The designated emergency exits are clear and unobstructed.</li> <li>• A supply of thermostatically controlled hot water to a maximum of 43°C is available in the service.</li> <li>• Cleaning products and medication are stored within a locked press and therefore are inaccessible to the children.</li> <li>• No trailing cables, wires or flexes are accessible to the preschool children.</li> </ul>
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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:

- (1) Two staff members have up to date training in First Aid Responder (FAR). Certificates of training were available at the time of inspection.
- (2)(a)&(b) A suitably stocked first aid box was provided in the service and is available as required.

### 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.
- (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 recording system is in place to maintain a record of monthly fire drills.
  - (b) A maintenance record for the fire- fighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available and was dated 13/08/2024.
- (4) 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 46 pre-school children for sessional, part-time care and 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 met:

- (a) On visual inspection the building appeared to be sound and stable.
- (b) The service is appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access. The outdoor play area is secured with latched gates, walls and fencing.
- (c)
  - The premises was adequately lit by means of natural lighting and supplemented by artificial lighting. All lights were fitted with protective covers.
  - The premises was heated by means of a gas fired heating system. Documentary evidence was available of the last maintenance check carried out which was dated 14/09/2024.
  - Ventilation was provided by means of open able windows and doors and an additional mechanical ventilation fan in the sanitary areas.
- (d)
  - The premises was found in a clean condition and in good repair.
- (e)
  - Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities, including nappy changing facilities are available to cater for the 44 preschool children registered to attend the service.

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met:

- (1) Adequate clear floor space is available for the proposed change in age profile in the pre-school service for the children’s work, play and movement.

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(2)

The following clear floor space is available in the service to cater for the currently registered 44 preschool children in attendance:

The Toddler Room: A total of 12.8 m<sup>2</sup> clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 4 preschool children aged 1-2years attending on a full day care/ part-time basis or a maximum of 5 preschool children aged 2-3 years attending on a full day care/ part-time basis.

The Playgroup Room: A total of 32m<sup>2</sup> clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 17 preschool children aged 3-6 years attending on a sessional basis and 13 children aged 3-6 years on a full day care/ part-time basis.

Montessori Room 1: A total of 34.7m<sup>2</sup> clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 19 preschool children attending on a sessional care basis or a maximum of 15 preschool children attending the service on a full day care / part-time basis.

Montessori Room 2: A total of 18.6m<sup>2</sup> clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 10 preschool children attending on a sessional care basis or a maximum of 8 preschool children attending the service on a full day care / part-time basis.

Based on this information adequate clear floor space is available to cater for the proposed change in age profile of preschool children attending the service.