

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015LK015

**Name of Service** Dromin & Athlacca Community Childcare Ltd

**Address of Service:** Rathcannon, Athlacca. Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, V35VY06

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Karen Hopkins

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

**Proposed change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated in Sessional service from 22 Sessional children to 28 Sessional preschool children

**Proposed Number of Children:** Sessional 28  
Full Day Care/ Part Time 26

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Change in number of children from 22 to 28(Max 26 full day/part-time) children

**Registered change:** Change in number of children from 22 to 28(Max 26 full day/part-time) children

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	3	0	9	2	0	2	5
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**Inspection undertaken by:** M Riordan

**Title:** EYI

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Estuary House Henry St, Limerick

**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 28(Max 26 Full Day/Part-Time) Children

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<b>Date of Registration</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>
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<b>Authority to Inspect</b>
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>	Dromin & Athlacca Community Preschool is a community sessional, part time and full day care pre-school service, located in the rural community of Athlacca, in Co. Limerick. It is located next door to the local Primary school in the village. The service offers a morning sessional service from 9.15am to 12.15pm. Full day care is offered from 7.30am to 2.45pm and a school aged service is offered each afternoon.
<b>Premises</b>	The premises is a purpose-built, single-story building. It contains 2 spacious pre-school rooms with bathroom facilities, a kitchen, a storage room and a disability toilet accessible. It has a well-resourced enclosed outdoor play area to the side and rear of the premises. A modular building located at the rear of the outdoor play area is used as a sensory room. This space accommodates school aged children each evening.
<b>Staffing</b>	The registered provider of the service is the chairperson of the Dromin Athlacca Community Childcare Committee. A designated person in charge is appointed to oversee the daily running of the pre-school. There are 5 additional staff employed to work at the service. All staff hold an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.
<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</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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the designated 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 following requirements have been met.

(1)(a) The registered provider has appointed a designated person in charge of the service and a named person to deputise is available if needed.

### 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

#### Requirement met:

The following requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has employed a manager to oversee the day to day running of the facility. An additional 5 staff members have also been employed to work at the service. A second staff member is rostered to work at the service each day from the opening of the preschool to the closing of the service each afternoon for the duration of the part time service.

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(8)(b) Not applicable as the proposed service is not a childminding service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a sessional service that operates single handedly.

### 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
- (4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.
- (5) Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.

#### Requirement met:

The following requirement has been met.

(1)(a) Adequate and suitable facilities are provided for children to play indoors and outdoors. The preschool rooms are bright and spacious and well laid out with various equipment and play materials on open, low level shelving units.

(b) There are adequate facilities for children to rest during the day if required. A large soft couch is available in the relaxation area of the room. Lots of blankets, pillows and soft cushions are available to create a rest area if required by children. Low level beds are accessible if children attending for the part time or full time service require a sleep.

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- (3)(a) The service has its own outdoor play area to the side and rear of the premises. The area is fully enclosed and is equipped with a wide range and variety of outdoor play materials. A sheltered area outside is also accessible.
- (3)(b) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Not applicable.

### 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 following requirement has been met.

A healthy eating policy is in place and advice is shared with parents about healthy food choices for children’s lunches. A kitchen is available in the service with facilities to safely store perishable foods and prepare meals and snacks each day for the children. The parents will provide a mid-morning snack for all children attending the sessional service. The service provide breakfast each morning for those who arrive early. A hot meal is provided each afternoon after the morning sessional service has concluded.

### 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 following requirements have been met.

All doors were adequately secure to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.

All fire exit doors were unobstructed.

Outdoors, a locked gate prevented unauthorised access to or exit from the outdoor play area.

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An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. The policy and the associated procedures detailed all measures to reduce the likelihood of infection spreading in the facility.

Cleaning programmes were in place to ensure a good standard of operational hygiene was in place.

### 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 following requirement has been met.

(1) Certification was available to evidence that a person with first aid responder training was available at all times in the service.

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the service and stored in a conspicuous location which was easily accessible on the premises.

### 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 following requirement has been met.

(1)(a) Fire drills take place once a month. Written documentation was available to support this practice.

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(b) There was a record available to indicate the number, type and the maintenance record of the fire extinguishers in the service. The extinguishers were replaced in the building in April 2025.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The following requirement was met.  
Evidence that the service is adequately insured for the change in type of service proposed has been submitted to the registration office.

### 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 following requirements has been met.

(a) The premises appeared to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) There was one entrance door to the preschool room which was appropriately safe and secure with a lock in situ. The outdoor area was secure to prevent a child exiting the area unsupervised.

(c) The service was adequately lit with lots of natural light available in all areas. Adequate ventilation was in place through openable windows in all areas of the building.

(d) Cleaning schedules were in place in the service.

(e) There was a sufficient number of toilets and wash hand basins in the service for the proposed number of children and adults attending the service. Nappy changing facilities are available if required.

**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:**

The following requirement was met.

- (1) An area of 46.62 square metres in preschool room 1 is available. An area of 18.13 square metres in preschool room 2 is available. This is sufficient to accommodate the proposed 28 sessional preschool children each morning and the proposed 26 full day/part time preschool children each afternoon.
- (2) The preschool room has adequate clear floor space for a service that provides full day, part-time and sessional care for children aged 2 years to 6 years.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) There was adequate floor space to accommodate children to attend both a sessional service, a full day care and a part time service at any one time.
- (5) Not applicable.