

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015LK031

Name of Service Buttercup Childcare

Address of Service: Main St, Ballylanders, Co Limerick,V35P228

Email Address: Info@buttercupchildcare.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Georgina O Brien

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

Proposed change:	<p>Change in Number of Children From 44 to 56 Change in Service Type: From Part Time to Full Day, Part Time, Sessional Change in Hours from 08:00-13:00 to 07:15am 18:15pm Change in Number of Staff from 6 to 9 staff</p>
Proposed Number of Children:	56
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	<p>Change from Part Time to Full Day, Part Time & Sessional Change from 08:00-13:00 to 07:15am 18:15pm Change in Number of staff employed: from 6 to 9 staff Change in Number of Children No change remains at 44</p>
Registered change:	<p>Change in Service Type from Part Time to Full Day, Part Time & Sessional from 07:15 – 18:15 Change in Number of staff from 6 to 9 staff Change in Number of Children No change remains at 44</p>

Date of Inspection:	2	4	0	4	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: E Browne and M Riordan

Title: Early years inspectors

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate, 2 nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
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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 Children
Date of Registration	22nd May 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	<p>Buttercup Childcare is a part time service located in the village of Ballylanders, Co Limerick. The service was opened in 2014.</p> <p>It currently operates from Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 13:00 pm for the preschool children, catering for a maximum of 44 preschool children and 24 school aged children</p> <p>The service proposes to add an additional playroom for preschool children aged between two and three years of age, to operate a full day service and to change the hours of operation for the preschool service.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from a refurbished retail premises located on the main street of Ballylanders in Co Limerick.</p> <p>There are adequate sanitary facilities to cater for the needs of the preschool children and staff.</p> <p>There is a large outdoor area to the rear and back of the premises.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider owns and manages the service. There are 6 additional staff members working in the service. All adults hold a recognised qualification in Early</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>Childhood Care and Education ranging from Level 5 to 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to have an additional 2 staff members to work 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 Inspectors wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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 is the designated person in charge of the service and a named person to deputise has been appointed as required.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 following requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has 6 staff members who will always be on the premises and evidenced this with a proposed staffing roster for 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 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.

The service purchased low level beds which children can use to rest each day if tired. A designated quiet time will be facilitated each day after dinner. A large soft couch is also available in each room for children to use if tired.

(b) The service has its own outdoor play areas to the rear of the premises. The area is fully enclosed and is equipped with a wide range of play materials. The service has a variety of surfaces such as a bark substance covering the ground in areas beneath all

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

climbing equipment, a cement yard for the ride on bikes and toys, and a grassy area for play opportunities exclusive to the outdoor area.

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. A kitchen area is available in the service with facilities for storing perishable foods and for the preparation of hot snacks. The service will provide a breakfast to children who arrive early. The parents will provide a fruit snack for the mid-morning break. A hot meal will be provided by a designated catering company and served to the children who will stay for part time or full-time care. A weekly menu plan was available to demonstrate the choice of hot nutritious meals that will be offered each day.

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.

The gated entrance prevented unauthorised access to or exit from the premises and the outdoor play areas. This gate appeared adequately secure to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>An infection control policy is in place to inform practice. The policy and the associated procedures detailed all measures to reduce the likelihood of infection spreading in the facility.</p> <p>Cleaning programmes are in place to ensure a good standard of operational hygiene is in place.</p> <p>Foot pedal operated lidded bins are provided in all areas of the service to ensure the safe disposal of all waste.</p>
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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 following requirement has been met.

(1) Certifications were available to evidence that the staff trained in first aid response for children were always available in the service.

(2) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available in the service and stored in a conspicuous location in the premises.

Part VI – Safety

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.

(b) There was a record available to indicate the number, type and maintenance of the fire extinguishers in the service. The fire extinguishers were serviced last in October 2024 and the smoke alarm was serviced in November of 2024. Certificates were available to state that the smoke alarm and fire extinguishers were in service.

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 increase in the number of children proposed to attend and the change to full day care have been submitted to the registration office.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 is one main entrance gate to the service which is appropriately safe and secure with a keypad lock in situ. The outdoor area is secure to prevent a child exiting the area unsupervised. A large outdoor storage shed is used for the safe storage of play materials outdoors.
 - (c) The service is adequately lit with lots of natural light available in all areas. Electric central heating is available when needed and checks were kept of the surface temperature of all radiators. Adequate ventilation was in place through openable windows in all the preschool rooms of the premises.
 - (d) Cleaning schedules were in place in the service.
 - (e) There are four toilets and four wash handbasins available to the preschool children attending the two preschool rooms namely the Hive and the Old Barn. There is a nappy changing facility adjacent to each playroom, the Hive and the Old Barn that's available to the children using these playrooms.
- There are three toilets and three wash handbasins available for the staff working in the service.

Requirement not met:

The proposed preschool room is not suitable to accommodate children between the ages of 2 and 3 years of age as there are no toilets, no nappy changing unit and no wash hand basins in place. The proposed preschool room is called the Loft, and it is located upstairs in the premises.

Response from Provider:

The registered provider had stated in the response that:

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>From September 2025, the rooms will change to accommodate the age groups attending.</p> <p>The <u>Hive</u> playroom downstairs to the front of the building will accommodate the younger children aged 2-3 years. The children will have direct access to the 2 toilets, 2 wash-handbasins and a nappy changing unit.</p> <p>The <u>Loft year 1</u> playroom located upstairs, will accommodate the older age group of children aged 3.5 to 5 years of age. A wash hand basin will be provided in or just off the playroom, and they will have access to 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins located downstairs, outside in the refurbished building.</p> <p>The <u>Old Barn year 2</u> located downstairs, will accommodate the younger age group from 2.5 months to 3.5 years. These children will have access to 2 toilets, 2 wash hand basins and a nappy changing unit if required.</p> <p>This work will be completed by September 2025. A change of circumstances was submitted to the registration office on the 13th of May 2025.</p>
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>The evidence submitted was assessed. A change of circumstances was submitted to the registration office on the 13th of May 2025.</p> <p>To ensure all work, including the change of room layout for each age group of children is completed, a follow-up visit inspection from the Inspectorate will be required.</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 following requirement was met.

- (1) An area of 58 square metres in the Old Barn preschool room was available.
An area of 52 square metres in the Hive preschool room was available.
An area of 58 square metres in the Loft preschool room was available.
There is sufficient space to accommodate a sessional, part time and a full day service.
- (2) There is adequate floor space to accommodate children to attend both a sessional, part time, and full-time care.