

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015LK050

Name of Service Clever Clogs Pre School

Address of Service: St Marys Old National School, High St, Croom, Co Limerick
V35 F990

Email Address: karen@eircomfrc.com

Name of Registered Provider: David Moloney

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

Proposed change:	Change in service type from sessional to part time & sessional Change in hours of operation from 09.00 to 12.00 to 09.00 to 13.00
Proposed Number of Children:	22
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Change in service type to part time & sessional Change in hours of operation from 09.00 to 13.00.
Registered change:	

Date of Inspection: 1 4 0 7 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: E Browne and S O Brien
Title: Early years inspectors

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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early years inspectorate, Tusla, 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 Part-Time & Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	12th August 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	The service is registered to provide a sessional service for children aged 2.8 – 5 years, Monday – Friday 09:00 – 12:00 for 38 weeks of the year, including the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme for eligible children.
Premises	The service operates from the Old National school building which is located on the grounds of the National school. The service has the sole use of a large playroom, a sensory room, bathroom facilities for the children and adults and access to a sensory garden. There is a staff room, and a kitchen located upstairs in the premises.
Staffing	There are 5 staff including the person in charge working in the service each day. All the staff hold a qualification in childcare. The registered provider does not work in the service.
Methodology	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

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	<p>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	The Inspectors wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge and staff 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 service has a manager as the designated person in charge each day and there is a named person present who is able to deputise if 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 has been met.

(1) The registered provider will ensure that there will be an adequate number of staff employed to work in the service each day. The staff roster demonstrated that the service proposes to have 4 staff members working directly with the 22 preschool children in the morning and 2 staff members present with the proposed 16 preschool children from 12 to 13 pm each day, commencing in September 2025.

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.*

Requirement met:

(1)(a) There is one large playroom in operation on the premises. The playroom has a number of designated interest areas that are resourced with a variety of materials including real, natural and sensory resources. The environment is visually pleasing, and

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resources are displayed at the child’s eye level to support the children to think and extend their learning, natural curiosity and sense of wonder.

(b) The playroom has a designated rest area with bean bags, couches and floor rug for children to use throughout the morning. There are two floor beds available for the children who may need to relax and sleep, and these will be accommodated appropriately in an area of the playroom.

Also, the children have access to a sensory room which is away from the main playroom. This will provide an opportunity for the staff and children to do one to one and smaller groups activities.

(2)(a) The service has access to an outdoor play and sensory garden area to the rear of the premises. The area is fully enclosed and is equipped with a wide range of play materials. The area has a natural material bark material covering the ground in all areas of the sensory garden.

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 service will ensure that the drinks, foods/meals provided will be suitable, varied and nutritious for the children attending the service. Additional snacks outside mealtimes will be available to the preschool children.

There are facilities to refrigerate and reheat foods if required.

The healthy eating policy for the service has been updated in line with the requirements for a part time service. The updated policy is available in the service for parents and staff to view.

Part VI – Safety

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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.

<p>Requirement met:</p>	<p>The entrance door to the service will be closed during the hours of operation and there is a bell entry system at the main entrance.</p> <p>The emergency exit doors are unobstructed and clear.</p> <p>The policies and procedures for the service have been updated in line with the operation of a part time service.</p> <p>A safe storage area is in place at the service main entrance hall for the children's belongings.</p> <p>There is a separate room for the storage for cleaning materials and equipment's for the service.</p> <p>A fridge is available for the storage of perishable food in the playroom.</p> <p>There is provision for safe storage of medications in the service if required.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>The two outdoor waste bins are accessible to the children and were not fenced off from the outdoor play area. This posed a risk of cross infection to the staff and children.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>The manager has stated in the submitted requirement document that:</p> <p>An outdoor storage unit has been purchased for the storage of the waste bins to ensure that they are not accessible to the preschool children when in the outdoor play area.</p> <p>Photographic evidence was submitted.</p>
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>The evidence submitted was assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of Regulation 23.</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 requirement has been met

- (1) The 5 staff working in the service have current first aid responder certification with an expiry date in October 2025 and January 2026.
- (2)(a)(b) The first aid box is readily identifiable and accessible to the staff working in the service. The fully equipped first aid box is stored safely in the playroom and available to the children

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:

- (1)(a) A record was available with the monthly fire drills documented from January to June 2025. The last recorded fire drill was 17th of June 2025.
- (b) A maintenance record for the firefighting equipment dated 27th of August 2024 and for the fire alarm system dated 26th of February 2025 were on file.

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(4) A fire assembly point was identified in the sensory garden area off the school yard. The notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the main entrance area of the service.

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
The current insurance certificate indicates cover for 22 children to attend the proposed part time service. The certificate expiry date is the 19th of June 2026.

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) The old school building has been refurnished in line with a conservation order.
(b) The entrance and emergency doors to the service will be closed and a bell entry system will be in place at the main entrance. All persons entering and leaving the building must be escorted by a staff member. The physical environment is safe and secure for purpose of a preschool service.
(c) The service is an inviting bright environment with high ceiling in the playroom and sufficient windows that provides enough light and comfort for activities. There is a balance between natural and artificial lighting.
The radiators in the playroom are all fitted with fixed guards.

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	<p>The service will ensure the playroom, sensory room and sanitary accommodation will be maintained within the following temperature limits of 18 to 22 degrees Celsius. The heating system is oil, and it was last serviced in November 2024.</p> <p>Openable windows are provided in the sanitary accommodation.</p> <p>(e) The facility has 2 single toilets cubicles and two wash hand basins available for the 22 preschool children.</p> <p>The hot water was thermostatically controlled at the recommended temperature of no more than 43^o C.</p> <p>Paper towel dispenser is available to facilitate effective hand drying.</p> <p>Separate adult toilet facilities are available for the staff.</p> <p>Pedal operated bins are available for disposing of general waste.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(e)There was no supply of hand cleansing liquid soap available and no space for the dispensers when positioned on the two-child size wash hand basins for the children to effectively wash their hands. This poses a risk of infection.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(e)The manager has stated in the submitted requirement document that:</p> <p>The service has purchased two hand cleansing wall mounted dispensers for the children’s bathroom facilities. Photographic evidence was submitted.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The evidence submitted was assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of Regulation 29, point (e).</p>

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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.*

Requirement met:

- (1) The requirement has been met.
 The playroom measured 75.6 m² and there is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement of the children attending the preschool service.
- (2) A minimum of 1.818 m² of clear floor space is available for each child proposing to attend for sessional care and 2.3 m² for the children attending for part time care.