

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015LK057

Name of Service The Beehive Play, Learn, Grow Ltd.

Address of Service: Well Lane, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.

Email Address: meabhokelly@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Méabh O Kelly

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

Proposed change: Two additional rooms added to the service changing the number of children that can be accommodated from 77 to 128

Proposed Number of Children: 128

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in number of children that can be accommodated at the service from 77 to 125

Registered change: Number of preschool children that can be accommodated 125

Date of Inspection:	2	4	1	0	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,
2nd Floor Estuary House,
Henry Street,
Limerick.

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part Time & Sessional Service with 125 Children
Date of Registration	12th November 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 Beehive is a private, full day childcare service located in the town of Rathkeale in Co. Limerick. It offers a service to children of all preschool ages. It is opened Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 6.00pm. The service operates from a purposely designed single story building.
Premises	The building includes a Baby/ Wobbler room, a Toddler/ Playgroup room, a Junior Pre-school room, and a Senior Preschool room, a manager's office, a Kitchen and a Dining area, sanitary accommodation, nappy changing areas and a designated sleep room. There are 2 well-resourced outdoor play areas located on the grounds of the service. The service has recently added an additional 2 rooms to the facility.
Staffing	The registered provider is the manager of the facility. A deputy manager is also employed at the service. There is a person employed to work in the kitchen to prepare and cook fresh meals each day. All staff have achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. All staff participate in continuous professional development with courses such as manual handling, first aid and child safeguarding offered on site.
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</p>

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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 is the 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 is the owner and the manager of the facility. She has employed an adequate number of staff to work at the service. On the day of the inspection there were 18 staff working directly with the preschool children. Relief staff were also available if required.

(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 separate sleep room is available for children under 2 years who require to sleep in a standard cot. Low level beds and sleep mats are provided for the older children who require a sleep. Large soft couches are available in the relaxation area of all other room. Lots of blankets, pillows and soft cushions are available to create a rest area if required by children.

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- (3)(a) The service has its own outdoor play areas to the side and front of the premises. The areas are fully enclosed and 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. A kitchen is available in the service with facilities to safely store perishable foods and prepare meals and snacks for the children. The service provides all meals and snacks throughout the day. A detailed menu plan demonstrates lots of healthy options for children throughout the day. Alternatives choices are always available if required.

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 conspicuous locations which were 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.

(b) There was a record available to indicate the number, type and the maintenance record of the fire extinguishers in the service. A maintenance company are commissioned to service the smoke alarm systems.

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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 the number of children the service proposes to accommodate was available.

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) All entrances and exits doors in the service were safe and secure with a lock in situ. The outdoor area was adequately secured 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. Mechanical ventilation was available where required.

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

(e) There was a sufficient number of toilets, nappy changing areas and wash hand basins in the service for the proposed number of children and adults attending 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.

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- (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) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space was available throughout the premises to accommodate children's need for work, play and movement in all rooms of the service.
- (2) An area of 27 square metres was available in the Baby room which could accommodate a maximum of 8 preschool children.
An area of 46 square metres was available in the Toddler room which could accommodate a maximum of 17 preschool children.
An area of 53 square metres was available in the proposed Playgroup room which could accommodate a maximum of 23 preschool children.
An area of 68 square metres was available in the proposed Junior preschool room which could accommodate a maximum of 29 preschool children.
An area of 48 square metres was available in the new Senior Preschool room which could accommodate a maximum of 26 preschool children.
An area of 44 square metres was available in the new sessional Preschool room which could accommodate a maximum of 22 preschool children.
All of the rooms including the proposed new rooms can facilitate a maximum of 125 preschool children which was agreed with the registered provider.
- (3) Adequate space has been provided for children attending for a sessional service in the new Preschool room in the new building.

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| | <p>(4) 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.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable.</p> <p>(6) 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.</p> <p>(7) Not applicable.</p> |
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