

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015LK061

**Name of Service:** Desmond Community Creche

**Address of Service:** Gortboy, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Alex Lafferty

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

**Proposed change:** Change in the number of children the service can accommodate

**Proposed Number of Children:** 62

**Registered change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 54 to 62

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	7	1	1	2	0	2	2
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**Inspection undertaken by:** Marie Riordan

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

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

**Rationale for Inspection :**  
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Full Day Care Service for 62 Children

**Date of Registration** 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023



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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>	Desmond Community Creche operates from a single story, purpose built, childcare facility in the town of Newcastlewest Co. Limerick. It is a community-based service. It caters for children from 1 to 5 years of age. It is opened from 7.45am to 5.30 pm, Monday to Friday. There were 56 children on the register at the time of the inspection.
<b>Premises</b>	The premises has 4 well planned, pre-school rooms, a Wobbler room, a Toddler room, a Junior Pre-School room and a Senior Pre-School room. There is a dedicated sleep room next to the Wobbler room and next to the Toddler room. There are 2 well-resourced outdoor play areas to the side and rear of the facility.
<b>Staffing</b>	The registered provider is the chairperson of the Desmond Community Complex Crèche committee. There is a designated person in charge appointed to manage the service. There are 12 additional staff employed to work at the facility. All staff have the required qualifications 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 two themes; Governance, and Safety.</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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the designated person in charge, the 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 requirement has been met.  
 (1)(a) The registered provider has appointed a designated person in charge who has responsibility for running the service daily. There is always a person available to deputise if required.

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 always ensure that there will be an adequate number of staff employed to work at 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.

**(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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The service has 4 well-resourced preschool rooms to accommodate children from 1 years to 6 years of age. All children have daily access to an outdoor play area on the premises. The rooms are well equipped with play materials and equipment. The rooms have areas of interest developed and all play equipment is stored on open low-level shelving where all equipment is readily accessible to the children.</p> <p>(1)(b) Adequate rest and sleep facilities are available for all pre-school child to rest and sleep during the day if required.</p> <p>(2) A fully enclosed outdoor area which is available to the children.</p> <p>(3)(a) The services outdoor area is available on the premises.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable</p> <p>(5) Not applicable</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>	<p>The service provides the children with adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food each day at the service. Foods are prepared fresh in the Desmond complex every morning. Children’s preferences are accommodated and alternative meals are always available and offered if needed. Children have access to drinking water throughout the day.</p>
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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.*

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<b>Requirement Met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The front door is always locked and staff must allow all visitors to gain access to the facility.</p> <p>All fire emergency exit doors are unobstructed.</p> <p>Safe storage is provided for each child's personal belongings.</p> <p>Storage for cleaning materials and equipment is provided in a secure area.</p> <p>A fridge is provided for the storage of perishable foods.</p> <p>Drinking water is readily available to the children throughout the day.</p> <p>There is provision for safe storage of medications in the service.</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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met</p> <p>(1) A person trained in first aid is at all times immediately available to the children in the service.</p> <p>(2) (a) A fully equipped first aid box is available in the service.</p> <p>The first aid box is readily identifiable and accessible to all staff if needed.</p>
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### 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) A record is available of monthly fire drills at the service.</p> <p>(b) A service record for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms is available. A contracted company visits the service to complete this work on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>(4) A fire assembly point is identified in the outdoor area. Notices of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the Pre-school.</p>
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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:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

### 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) The building appears to be of sound and stable structure. It appears clean and well maintained throughout.

(b) The entrance door to the service is always locked.

(c) Natural lighting is provided with numerous windows and this is supplemented with artificial lights which are fully encased with protective covers. The windows in each room are openable to provide natural ventilation. All heating appliances are thermostatically controlled to always ensure safe surface temperature.

(d) The rooms in the service are well maintained and clean throughout.

(e) Sufficient sanitary facilities and nappy changing areas are provided in the premises with enough toilets, wash hand basins and nappy changing units provided.

### 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.*

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(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).

### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(2) The required minimum amount of floor space determined by the age range of the children is available in the premises.

There is 28.95 square meters available in the Wobbler room.

There is 39.37 square meters available in the Toddler room.

There is 56.46 square meters available in the Preschool room 1.

There is 45.45 square meters available in the Preschool room 2.

(3) The minimum amount of floor space required by the sessional group attending the service is available.

(4) Sufficient space is available for both the children attending the sessional service and the full day care service.