

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2015LK093

Name of Service Kilfinane Playschool CLG

Address of Service: Low Bridge Road, Kilfinane, Co Limerick

Email Address: kilfinaneplayschooltd@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Martina Connery

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

Proposed change:

- From Sessional to Sessional and Part-Time
- Change in hours of operation

Proposed Number of Children: 44 no change

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Approve all changes

Registered change: Change in service type from Sessional to Part Time & Sessional
Change in hours of operation from 08:45 – 12:00 to 08:45 – 13:30 and 09:00 – 13:30

Date of Inspection: 1 9 0 5 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: E Browne

Title: Early years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 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 Part Time / Sessional Service for 44 Children
Date of Registration	11 th July 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).

Description of Service	<p>This community based preschool service opened in 2014. It provides a sessional service for children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service is proposing to provide sessional and part-time care from 08:45 – 13:30 and 09:00 – 13:30 commencing in September 2023. It can cater for 44 preschool children at any one time. The service offers a school aged service to children from the local National school.</p>
Premises	<p>This service operates from a purpose-built facility, located in the village of Kilfinane, Co. Limerick. The service has 2 designated pre-school rooms, bathroom facilities for the adults and children, an open office, a kitchen /storage room and reception area. There are enclosed outdoor play areas to the rear and front of the premises.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are 6 staff working with the children each day. The staff have achieved an award in Early Childhood Care and Education and participate in ongoing and continuous professional development training. All the staff have up to date first response aid training completed.</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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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.

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 care for the children attending for the sessional and proposed part time service. There are 6 staff working in the service each day.

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

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Requirement met:	<p>(1)(a) There are two playrooms in operation in the service. Each playroom has a number of designated interest areas that are resourced with a variety of materials including real, natural and sensory resources to support children’s independent thinking, extend their learning, natural curiosity and sense of wonder.</p> <p>The children have access to a number of outdoor spaces and these include the sensory garden, an enclosed outdoor soft surface area and the green area to the front of the building. This space has a variety of play equipment and materials that are exclusive for outdoor play, exercise and games.</p> <p>(b) The playrooms have a designated rest area with couches and floor rug for children to use throughout the morning. Additional four cot beds with individual linen for the children who may require a sleep will be available each day.</p> <p>(2)(b) Not applicable</p> <p>(3)(a) The outdoors spaces are suitable, safe and secured with high fencing and gated.</p> <p>(b) Not applicable as the service has daily access to enclosed outdoor space located on the premises.</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.

Requirement met:	<p>The service will ensure the children receive adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food each day at the service. The children attending for the sessional service their snacks and drinks are provided by the parents.</p> <p>Children planning to avail of the part time service will have an additional meal provided by the service. Foods will be prepared fresh in the service and delivered to the playroom at meal times.</p> <p>Children’s preferences will be accommodated and alternative foods 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service has policies and procedures to prevent the spread of infection in the service, including exclusion periods for children and adults with an infectious disease.

The emergency exits doors are unobstructed.

Safe storage is provided for the children’s belongings.

Storage for cleaning materials and equipment is provided in a secure area.

A kitchen is available for the preparation of meals and snacks for the children planning to avail of the part time care. A fridge is available for the storage of perishable food.

There is provision for safe storage of medications in the service if required.

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 staff working in the service have a current first aid response certification with an expiry date in January 2025.

(2)(a) The first aid boxes are readily identifiable and accessible to the staff working in the service. The fully equipped first aid box are stored safely in the playrooms and available to the children.

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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 firefighting 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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The records indicate that fire drills take place at the premises on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drills was carried out on the 20th of April 2023.</p> <p>(b) A maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms is dated March 2023.</p> <p>(4) A fire assembly point is identified in the outdoor area. Notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the main entrance area of the service.</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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The current insurance certificate indicates cover for 50 children attending the service. The certificate is dated from 4th of May 2023 to the 27th of March 2024.</p>
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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. The premises were newly painted indoors and outdoors in summer of 2022.

(b) The entrance doors to the service are locked with a keypad system in place and all persons entering and leaving the building must be escorted by a staff member.

(c) Natural lighting is provided with large windows, and this is supplemented with artificial lights which are fully encased with protective covers.

There is underfloor heating in place in the premises and room temperatures are maintained between 18 to 22 degrees.

The windows in the playrooms are openable to provide natural ventilation.

Openable window is provided in the sanitary accommodation.

(d) The service appears to be well maintained and clean throughout.

(e) Sufficient, suitable and adequate sanitary facilities are provided for the proposed 44 preschool children attending the service. There are 5 single toilet cubicles and 5 wash-handbasin available to the children. The hot water is controlled at the recommended temperature of no more than 43⁰ C. A supply of paper towels and soap dispensers are wall mounted to facilitate effective hand washing.

An additional 2 wash hand basin are available in each playroom.

Adult's facilities are available adjacent close to the playrooms.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

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

(2) The playrooms measure 76.68 and 75.75sq meters = 152.43 m².

Sufficient space is available for the children attending the sessional service and the proposed part-time day-care service.