

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015LK096

Name of Service Northside FRC Riverside Early Childhood Centre

Address of Service: Northside Family Resource Centre
Cloncannane Road, Kings Island, Limerick

Email Address: alisondore@northsidefrc.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Ciara Kane

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

Proposed change: Change in number of preschool children that can be accommodated from 71 to 83 preschool children.

Proposed Number of Children: 83

Recommended Change Following Inspection: 71 to 83 Preschool Children

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 71 to 83

Date of Inspection:	1	1	0	5	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: J Ryan

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 2nd 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 83 Children
Date of Registration	2 nd August 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	This community-based service was established in 2011. It operates a full day care service from 08:00 – 17:30 hours Monday – Friday from a purpose-built facility. The service offers a play-based curriculum.
Premises	The service is operated from a purpose-built facility in an urban setting. Children are accommodated in six different rooms according to their age group i.e., baby room, wobbler room, transition room, toddler room, preschool room and play therapy room. There is one dedicated sleep room in the service and children also rotate to the main entrance hall which is a large space for the children to play in. The children have access to sanitary accommodation areas and outdoor play facilities located directly off each playroom. A full-time outdoor play group is available to children who attend the ECCE scheme Monday to Friday 09.30 – 12.30 hrs. This group spend all of their time outdoors playing with the emphasis being on risky and challenging play. Appropriate all weather clothing and wellingtons are worn by both the children and the staff when required. Children have their snacks and dinners outdoors in a sheltered space which was specifically built for this purpose. Heating, toilet facilities, hot water and a changing room are available in this shelter.
Staffing	There are sixteen staff working in the service which includes the person in charge. All staff employed in the service have childcare qualifications which range from QQI Level 5 to Level 9. The adults engaged in on-going professional development including first aid training, manual handling, risk assessment and fire safety.
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 following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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:

(1)(a) There will be a designated person in charge and a named person who will be able to deputise as 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:

(1) Sixteen staff are currently working in the service caring for 71 preschool children which is in compliance with the recommended adult/child ratios.

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.

(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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The playrooms are well equipped with play materials and equipment. The rooms have areas of interest developed and all play equipment is stored at a low level, readily accessible to children. Facilities for outdoor play are available on site directly off each room at the rear of the service.
(b) The service has rest areas in each playroom consisting of an adult sized couches and floor mats for children to use if they are tired during the day.
(3)(a) The outdoor area is located at the rear of the service and is fully enclosed and secure with fencing and locked gates.

Requirement not met:

(1)(b) There is only one sleep room with 5 cots available to children under 2 years of age.
The proposed number of children requiring sleep is as follows:
Babies 0-1 years x 6

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	<p>Wobblers 1-2 years x 12 Total = 18 children</p> <p>The number of cots provided within the service must be appropriate to the number of children attending the service and the service type. The following are the sleep requirements as detailed in the Quality and Regulatory Framework Document for full day care and part-time services.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Child's age (approximately)</th> <th>Number of cots</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6 months - 12 months</td> <td>1 cot for each child</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 months - 18 months</td> <td>Cots available for two-thirds of children in this age range</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18 months - 2 years</td> <td>Cots available for half the children in this age range</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Child's age (approximately)	Number of cots	6 months - 12 months	1 cot for each child	12 months - 18 months	Cots available for two-thirds of children in this age range	18 months - 2 years	Cots available for half the children in this age range
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18 months - 2 years	Cots available for half the children in this age range								
Response from Provider:	<p>It is proposed that 3 babies aged under 12 months would be cared for from September. An additional cot can be added to the cot room if required as the storage unit has been removed from the cot room. Sleep provision will be monitored daily and adjusted as required.</p>								
Summary Comment:	<p>This will meet the requirements of the regulation and will be assessed on next inspection.</p>								

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>A documented and detailed healthy eating policy and menu plan is available for the full day care service. The service has been inspected under the Food Safety Regulations by the Environmental Health Department.</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 entrance door was locked and secure preventing unauthorised access and preventing a child leaving the service. A key code and fobs have to be used where applicable.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Drinking water was readily available to the children.
- Safe storage was provided for the children’s belongings.
- Storage for cleaning materials and equipment was provided in a secure area out of reach of the children.
- There was provision for safe storage of medications in the manager’s office.
- The registered provider was advised that water temperatures must be maintained at or below 43°C.
- The cords from blinds are made safe with the use of tension devices.
- There were no trailing flexes and there was no television or stereo in the service.
- All toys and play equipment were safe for the age of children using them.

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:

(1) Six staff had updated training in first aid for children (FAR) and the certificates were valid until 22/06/2023.

(2)(a) There were three suitably equipped first aid boxes available on the premises.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

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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.

Requirement met:	(1)(a)A record in writing was kept of fire drills practiced monthly and documentation was available to indicate this. (b)The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises was available and were last maintained in July 2022. (4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in each room.
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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 Insurance certificate for the service was available and had an expiry date of 27/03/2024.
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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:	(a) On visual assessment the building appeared of a sound and stable structure. The premises was well maintained and in a good state of repair. (b) The entrance door was kept locked at all times. (c)The rooms had good levels of natural light via the windows. Room temperatures were maintained between 18 - 21°C.Ventilation was provided through openable windows in the rooms. (d) The premises was clean and all fixtures and fittings were in good repair. (e) The sanitary accommodation included 5 toilets and 6 wash hand basins designated for use by children. 4 nappy changing areas were available. Separate sanitary facilities for adults were available which included 3 toilets and 3 wash hand basins.
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

(1) 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 space available indoors and outdoors is sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed number of children to attend.

The measurements of the Playrooms were recorded as follows:

- **Baby Room** (old Transition room)
Space available = 13.1 sq. meters.
Allows a maximum of 4 (0-1 years) Full time.
- **Wobbler Room**
Space available = 33.90 sq. meters.
Allows a maximum of 12 (1-2 years) Full time.
- **Transition/Wobbler** (Old Baby room)
Space available = 20.5 sq. meters.
Allows a maximum of 7 (1-2 years) Full time.
- **Toddler Room**
Space available = 40.09 sq. meters.
Allows a maximum of 17 (2-3 years) Full time.
Allows a maximum of 22 (2-3 years) Sessional.
- **Preschool Room**
Space available = 43.68 sq. meters.
Allows a maximum of 19 (3-6 years) Full time.
Allows a maximum of 24 (3-6 years) Sessional.
- **Play Therapy Room**
Space available = 11.93 sq. meters.
Allows a maximum of 5 (3-6 years) Full time.
- 22 preschool children are accommodated in the outdoor sessional playgroup which has its own sheltered area.

Total space 163.2 sq. meters