

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015LK106

Name of Service Limerick Social Services Council Early Years Service

Address of Service: Limerick Social Services Centre, Henry St, Limerick, V94
2W14

Email Address: Brian.ryan@lssc.ie pamela.walsh@lssc.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Brian Ryan

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

Proposed change: Change in the number of children from 61 to 80
Change in the number of staff employed from 11 to 15

Proposed Number of Children: 80

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in the number of children from 61 to 80
Change in the number of staff employed from 11 to 15

Registered change: Change in the number of children from 61 to 80 children
Change in the number of staff employed from 11 to 15 staff

Date of Inspection: 2 5 0 8 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: E Browne

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla, Early years inspectorate, 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 Full Day Care & Sessional Service for 80 Children
Date of Registration	29th 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	<p>This full day care service is located in the city of Limerick, and it provides care and education to children aged from six months to six years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 08:30hrs and 17:30hrs for 48 weeks of the year.</p> <p>It proposes to increase the number of preschool children in attendance from 61 to 80 for full day care.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from the social services building; however, parents, children and staff have their own entrance area to the rear of the building. There are currently four playrooms in operation, one dedicated sleep room, sanitary facilities for the children and adults and a staff room. Outdoor play areas are located to the side and rear of the premises.</p> <p>The service has renovated rooms to accommodate the proposed increase in the number of preschool children from 61 to 80</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider does not work in the service. There is a manager and deputy manager available on site and the service proposes to increase the number of staff working in the service to 15. All these adults working with the children have the appropriate childcare qualifications.</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)</p>

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	<p>(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	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge and staff 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:

(1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who can 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) There will be an adequate number of adults working in the service as it proposes to have 4 additional adults to accommodate the increase in the number of preschool children in attendance from 61 to 80 at any one time. Additional AIM (Access and Inclusion) staff will also be employed to work in the preschool.

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*

Requirement met:

- (1)(a) Facilities for children to play indoors and outdoors were suitable as there were clearly defined interest areas in the rooms and sufficient play equipment was evident in the outdoor play area.
- (b) A clearly defined rest and quiet area was evident in a designated playroom adjoining two playrooms in the premises. In addition, there are 11 cot beds available for the children over 2 years of age who may require a sleep at any time throughout the day. These will be located in the designated rest playroom.
- (2)(a) A safe secure outdoor space is available on site for outdoor play for the children.
- (3) (a) There is sufficient safe secure outdoor spaces available on site for outdoor play for all the preschool children.

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(b) 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:

Nutritious meals, snacks and drinks will be provided by the service and refrigerated where required.
A healthy eating policy was documented.

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 secured preventing unauthorised access and preventing a child leaving the service unaccompanied.
- Drinking water was readily available to the children.
- Storage for cleaning materials and equipment was provided in a secure area in a cupboard out of reach of the children.
- The manager was advised that water temperatures must be maintained at or below 43°C.
- Window blinds cords did not pose a potential hazard as blinds were not erected in the service.
- Toys and play equipment were safe and suitable for the age of children using them.

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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:

- (1) Persons trained in first aid for children are immediately available to the children proposing to attend the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available.
- (b) The first aid box will be available to the children attending the pre-school service when required.

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) Arrangements were in place to record fire drills that will take place in the premises.
- (1)(b) The number, type and maintenance records of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises were available. Fire extinguishers and smoke alarms were last serviced in August 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises. The fire assembly point was clearly identified and visible in the outdoor play area at the main entrance to the premises.

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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 01/01/2026.

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:

The premises

- (a) Was of sound and stable structure.
- (b) Was safe and secure.
- (c) Was kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated.
- (d) Was cleaned and maintained as required.
- (e) The hot water was thermostatically controlled at the recommended temperature of no more than 43^o C.

Hand washing and drying facilities were suitable and adequate.

Pedal operated bins are available for disposing of general waste. There are two toilets’ cubicles and two wash hand basins available to the children. These are easily accessible to the children as they are located just off the larger of the three playrooms. Nappy changing facilities are available with gloves, aprons and the updated displayed nappy changing policy.

Separate adult toilet facilities are available for the staff.

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.*
- (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:

- (1) Sufficient clear floor space is available in the Toddler preschool 2 for the number of children proposing to attend the pre-school service.
- (2) The measurements of the playrooms were recorded as:
 Total space available is 51.18 sq. meters.
- (3) A minimum of 2.35 square metres of clear floor space for children ages 2-3 years who attend full time and a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child who attends the ECCE service.
- (4) Not Applicable
- (5) Not Applicable

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