

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015LK171

Name of Service Tall Trees Childcare Springfield

Address of Service: Springfield, Old Singland Rd, Limerick

Email Address: talltreesspringfield@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Pamela Walsh

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the number of children to 120. Change in age profile of children to 1 - 6 years.
Proposed Number of Children:	120
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum number of preschool children that can be accommodated is 103 in the morning. Change in age profile of children to 1 - 6 years.
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 100 to 103. Change in age profile of children from 6 months – 6 years to 1 – 6 years

Date of Inspection:	2	3	0	8	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: E Browne, J Ryan
Title: Early years Inspectors

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 103 Children
Date of Registration	9 th October 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 is a privately owned full day care service which first opened in 2007.</p> <p>The service provides sessional, part-time and full day education and care to preschool children.</p> <p>A school aged service is also available on the premises.</p> <p>The service proposes to increase the number of preschool children in attendance from 100 to 120, change the profile of these children from 6 months – 6 years to 1 – 6 years and change the opening hours from 07:30-18:15 to 07:45 – 17:45hrs.</p>
Premises	<p>The premises are a purpose built, two storey childcare facilities located in the outskirts of Limerick city close to shops, schools and residential settings.</p> <p>The service has 6 playrooms in operation, one sleep room, a kitchen, nappy changing and sanitary facilities for children and adults and outdoor play areas to the back of the premises</p>
Staffing	<p>There are 15 adults working directly with the children and the person in charge and deputy available on site if required. Additional staff are available for kitchen and cleaning duties.</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</p>

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, 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:	(1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise as required.
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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) The registered provider ensures that there is an adequate number of staff employed to work at the service. On the day of the inspection the adult/child ratio was correct and met the requirements of Regulation 11 Staffing levels.
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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

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(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

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The service has 6 well-resourced preschool rooms to accommodate children from 1 to 6 years of age. Each of the rooms are well stocked with play materials and equipment. The rooms have areas of interest developed and all play materials are stored on open low-level shelving where all toys are readily accessible to the children.</p> <p>(b) Adequate rest and sleep facilities are available for the pre-school child to rest and sleep during the day if required. For children under 2 years of age a separate sleep room is available with traditional cots available for the children.</p> <p>(2) There are fully enclosed outdoor areas accessible to the children throughout the day to the rear of the building. These areas are well resourced with lots of natural play equipment accessible.</p> <p>(3)(a) The services outdoor area is available 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.

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Requirement met:	<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 service and delivered to each room at meal times. Childrens preferences are accommodated, and alternative meals are always available and offered if needed. Children have access to drinking water throughout the day.</p> <p>A healthy eating policy was documented.</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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entrance door was secured preventing unauthorised access and preventing a child leaving the service. • Drinking water was readily available to the children. • Storage for cleaning materials and equipment was provided in a designated secure area out of reach of the children. • The registered provider was advised that water temperatures must be maintained at or below 43°C. • Window blinds cords did not pose a potential hazard as tension devices were attached to them to make them safe. • 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—

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- (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:	<p>(1) All the staff are trained in first aid response for children are immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.</p> <p>(2)(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children were available.</p> <p>(b)The first aid boxes will be available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.</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.

Requirement met:	<p>(1)(a) A record is available of monthly fire drills at the service. The most recent drill took place on the August 2023.</p> <p>(1)(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises was available. Fire extinguishers were last service in November 2022. The smoke alarm system was serviced on the 9th of March 2023.</p> <p>(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 carpark area.</p>
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Part VI – Safety

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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 07/03/2024.
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(a) The building appears to be of sound and stable structure. It appears clean and well maintained throughout.</p> <p>(b) The entrance door is always locked and access beyond this door is controlled by a keypad locking system.</p> <p>(c) Natural lighting is provided through 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. The heating is thermostatically controlled to ensure ambient and comfortable room temperatures throughout the service.</p> <p>(d) The rooms in the service are well maintained and clean throughout.</p> <p>(e) There are 2 adult’s toilets and 2 wash hand basins located in the staff room.</p>
Requirement not met:	(e) Suitable sanitary facilities were not available in the service:

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	<p>1. There are insufficient toilets and wash hand basins to facilitate the proposed number of 120 preschool children to attend the service.</p> <p>There are 8 toilets, 1 nappy changing facility and 10 wash hand basins available to cater for the proposed number of preschool children. The ratio of toilets/nappy changing units is 1 toilet/nappy changing unit and 1 wash hand basin must be available for every 11 preschool child attending the service.</p> <p>The facilities available allowed for a maximum 88 toilet trained children and a maximum of 11 children in nappies at any given time.</p> <p>2. The water temperature at 2 wash hand basins (nappy changing facility and the new preschool room) recorded 57°C which is too high and it needs to be adjusted to a safer temperature of 43°C or less.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>1. The service are adding an additional child toilet and an additional nappy changing unit to facilitate the recommended number of preschool children. The proposed timeframe for the work to be completed is within a 8 weeks period up to 22nd of November.</p> <p>2. A thermostatic mixing valve has been fitted to all sinks to ensure a safer temperature of 43°C or less.</p>
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>The actions as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliances identified. This will be reviewed on next inspection.</p>

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

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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:	<p>(3) Not applicable</p> <p>(4) Not Applicable</p> <p>(5) Not Applicable</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(1) There was insufficient floor space available for the proposed number of 120 preschool children to attend the service.</p> <p>(2) The required minimum amount of floor space is determined by the age range of the children attending the service the premises.</p> <p><u>Wobbler Room:</u></p> <p>There is 25.22 square meters available in the Wobbler room which can accommodate 9 children aged 1-2 years of age for full day care.</p> <p><u>Toddler Room:</u></p> <p>There is 28.12 square meters available in the Toddler room which can accommodate 12 children aged 2-3 years for full day care.</p> <p><u>Playschool Cheetahs:</u></p>

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	<p>There is 33.93 square meters available in the upstairs Preschool room which can accommodate 19 children for sessional care and 14 children aged 2-3 years of age for full day care.</p> <p><u>Giraffe Preschool Room :</u></p> <p>There is 43.39 square meters available in the new preschool room which can accommodate 24 children aged 3-4 years of age during morning sessional service and 19 preschool children in the afternoon for full day care.</p> <p><u>Tigers Preschool Room;</u></p> <p>There is 33 square meters available in the Tigers Preschool room which can accommodate 18 children aged 2.5 -3 years of age during morning sessional service and 14 preschool children in the afternoon for full day care.</p> <p><u>Montessori Lions:</u></p> <p>There is 37.78 square meters available in the Montessori room which can accommodate 21 children aged 3-6 years during morning sessional service and 16 preschool children in the afternoon for full day care.</p> <p>The maximum capacity each morning is 103 preschool children. This is based on the room measurements as listed above and the age profile of children currently attending.</p> <p>Total space available is 201.44 sq. meters.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>1 .& 2.</p> <p>The service provider has stated that the maximum number of preschool children to attend the service is 103.</p>
Summary	<p>This now meets the regulatory requirements of point 1 and 2.</p>