

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2015LK186

Name of Service TLC Childcare

Address of Service: 116 Templegreen, Newcastlewest, Co Limerick

Email Address: shaun.hester@tlc-cc.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Joan Hester

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

Proposed change: Increase in the number of children allowed attend from 46 to 56 children

Proposed Number of Children: 56 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in Number of Children that can be accommodated from 46 to 56 children

Registered change: Change in Number of Children that can be accommodated from 46 to 56 children

Date of Inspection:	1	8	0	6	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: J Ryan

Title: Early years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Early Years Inspectorate
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 for 56 Children
Date of Registration	19 th August 2024

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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 private an early year's service which first opened in July 2012. It provides sessional, part-time and full day education and care to preschool children aged 0 - 5 years of age.</p> <p>School aged services will no longer be provided to school aged children. The service operates from 08.00hrs to 18.30hrs and the setting caters for a maximum of 46 preschool children. It operates from a purpose-built building in an urban residential area.</p>
Premises	<p>There will be 4 care rooms in operation: Bumblebee room (6 months – 1.5 years), Ladybird room (1.5-2.5 years), Butterfly room (3.5- 6 years) and Caterpillar room (2 - 3.5 years). There is a dedicated sleep room with cots for children aged less than 2 years. The service has a large outdoor play area located at the rear of the premises where children have access to outdoor play equipment.</p>
Staffing	<p>The service employs 13 staff. All staff members working in the service have childcare qualifications. An additional staff member is employed to serve food and also completes cleaning duties in the premises. All cooking and preparation of food takes place at a second service operated by the registered provider at Woodfield, Killeline, Newcastlewest.</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:

(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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

(1) There will be an adequate number of adults working in the service as it proposes to have 1 adult supervising a maximum of 11 preschool ECCE children at any one time. There are 11 staff on the staff roster.

(8)(b) Not applicable

(c) A second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance if required is available in the event of an emergency.

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—

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- (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.

Requirement met:	<p>(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.</p> <p>(b) Suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day were available as each room had an adult sized couch where staff and children could sit comfortably and relax together.</p> <p>(2)(a) A safe secure outdoor space was available on site for outdoor play for the children.</p> <p>(3) Not applicable</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.

Requirement met:	<p>Nutritious meals, snacks and drinks will be provided by parents and the service and are refrigerated where required.</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:	<p>The entrance door was secured preventing unauthorised access and preventing a child leaving the service.</p> <p>Drinking water was readily available to the children.</p> <p>Storage for cleaning materials and equipment was provided in a secure area in a cupboard out of reach of the children.</p> <p>The registered provider was advised that water temperatures must be maintained at or below 43°C.</p> <p>Window blinds cords did not pose a potential hazard as tension devices were attached to them to make them safe.</p> <p>Toys and play equipment were safe and suitable for the age of children using them.</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*
 - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

Requirement met:	<p>(1) Persons trained in first aid for children (First Aid Responder) will be immediately available to the children proposing to attend the pre-school service.</p> <p>(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available.</p> <p>(b) The first aid box 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:	(1)(a) Arrangements were in place to record fire drills that will take place in the premises. (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 September 2023. Smoke alarms were serviced in June 2024. (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.
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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 27/03/2025. The number of children covered for insurance is 64 preschool children.
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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 premises on visual inspection (a) Was of sound and stable structure. (b) Was safe and secure. (c) Was kept adequately lit with natural and artificial lighting, heated and ventilated with openable windows. (e) Sanitary facilities were sufficient as there were two adult toilets and two wash hand basins available to cater for 13 staff. There were five children’s toilets, five wash hand basins and two nappy changing areas available for children.
Requirement not met:	(d) Floor covering throughout the service was in a poor state of repair. The flooring was stained in sections of all rooms, hallways and the sanitary areas. Parts of floor covering was missing in rooms where equipment had been removed.

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Response from Provider:	(d) The floor covering throughout the service has been replaced. Photographic evidence has been submitted to demonstrate that all floor covering has been replaced.
Summary Comment:	The requirements have been met in relation to Regulation 29.

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:	<p>(1) Sufficient clear floor space is available in the caterpillar room for the number of children proposing to attend the pre-school service.</p> <p>(2) The measurements of the playroom were recorded as follows:</p> <p>6.50 x 3.80 meters = 24.70 sq. meters. 1.90 x 1.60 meters = 3.040 sq. meters. 0.90 x 2.20 meters = <u>1.980</u> sq. meters</p> <p>Total space available is 29.72 sq. meters.</p> <p>(3) A minimum of 2.35 square metres of clear floor space for children ages 2-3 years who attend full time allows a maximum of 13 children attend in this room. A minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child who attends the ECCE service allows 16 children attend.</p> <p>(4) Not Applicable (5) Not Applicable</p>
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