

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015LM003

Name of Service Blacklion Childcare Services

Address of Service: Toam, Blacklion, Co. Cavan

Email Address: blacklionchildcare@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms. Niamh Kenefick

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:	Proposing to open a new preschool room. Proposing to increase number of children being catered for from 47 to 65. Proposing to increase number of staff from 15 to 17.
Proposed Number of Children:	65
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	All changes approved
Registered change:	Change in number of children to be accommodated from 47 to 65 Change in number of staff from 15 to 17

Date of Inspection:	0	6	1	2	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: S. Skinnader
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: No.18 The Grange, Plantation Walk, Monaghan

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 65 Children
Date of Registration	12 th January 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	Blacklion Childcare Services CLG is a full day care service which provides sessional, part-time and full day care childcare. This community run service currently caters for a maximum of 47 pre-school children aged between 0 - 6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme Monday to Friday.
Premises	This second-hand prefabricated building is currently located adjacent to the existing childcare premises in the town of Blacklion Co. Cavan. It is proposed to operate this building as a preschool room, with sanitary accommodation. The children will have access to the existing outdoor area for outdoor play. Adequate off - road parking is available for drop offs and pick-ups.
Staffing	Four staff will be employed in this room.
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	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge who was 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) The requirement has been met.
The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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 applicant is aware of the requirements in relation to adult: child ratios and will ensure that they are met when the service commences.
The person in charge states that 4 staff members will be working directly with the proposed 33 pre-school children on a sessional basis and 29 children on a full day care basis.

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:

The requirements of this Regulation have been met.
(1)(a) and (b) Adequate and suitable facilities have been provided for children to play indoors and outdoors during the day. New toys and equipment have been bought in addition to equipment already available and includes age-appropriate tables and chairs. There is a cosy area with new matting and 2 child sized plastic covered sofas. A foldaway foam mattress is available in the care room and stackable beds are available in the main building for any child that might require a sleep if attending on a full day care basis.

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	(3)(a) The children attending the new care room will have access to the current outdoor tarmacked area adjacent to the prefab. The area is fully enclosed with metal fencing and gates. A second outdoor play area with a large wooden climbing frame is reported to be out of use for as it is currently under construction.
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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:	The requirement has been met. All snacks and dinners are provided by the service. Dinners are homemade daily and a two weekly menu is available. The children will have access to potable drinking water.
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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 partially met. All storage areas have been made inaccessible to pre-school children. All external doors have keypad locking. systems on them. All cleaning agents are to be stored out of reach of the children in the sluice in the main building. Medications will be stored out of reach of the children.
Requirement not met:	1. Some of the toy kitchen units and light brown shelving units in the care room had sharp unprotected corners. These are a potential injury hazard.
Response from Provider:	1. Plastic corner protectors put in place see image attached.
Summary Comment:	Photographic evidence submitted of newly installed sharp corner protectors. The requirement of the regulation has been met.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) The registered provider has insured that there is always an adult with up to date FAR training on the premises.
- (2)(a) and (b) A new suitably stocked first aid box was provided in the service and will be available at all times.

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:

The requirement has been met.

- (1)(a) There is a log in place to record any fire drills that will take place.
- (b) There is a written record of the number type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises dated the 29/11/22 and installation of extinguishers 09/23 respectively.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

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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 partially met.</p> <p>(a)The premises on visual inspection appears to be structurally sound.</p> <p>(b)The service is safe and secure with a keypad lock on the front door of the building and a hand sensor pad on the inside of the door to open it. The current outdoor area is fenced and secured.</p> <p>(c) <u>Lighting</u> is provided by means of natural light and supplemented with covered fluorescent lights – glass in both doors, 6 windows and 6 fluorescent lights in the care room. Lighting in the sanitary area is by fluorescent lighting in each of the 3 toilets and additionally by windows in 2 of the toilets.</p> <p><u>Heating</u>: The room temperature in the care room is adequate and comfortable at 22° C on the day of inspection. Heating is by means of a wall mounted electric air conditioning unit.</p> <p><u>Ventilation</u>: The care room is adequately ventilated by means of open-able windows and the heating unit could also be used for producing cool air. One toilet area is ventilated by means of mechanical ventilation and the other 2 toilets by openable windows.</p> <p>(d) The premises, toys and equipment were new and in a clean condition and in good repair. Cleaning schedules are available.</p> <p>(e)Adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation was provided. The sanitary accommodation consists of a lobby off the care room with 3 separate closed off toilet areas i.e. 1 adult toilet and 1 hand basin, a disabled access toilet which doubled as the nappy changing area and a children’s toilet, with wash hand basin. The third toilet area had 2 children’s toilets and 2 wash hand basins.</p> <p>Each toilet area had thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and single use paper towels. Pedal operated lidded bins were also available in each area.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(c) There is no heating in the sanitary accommodation and the following temperatures were recorded,</p> <p>The staff toilet 12.9° C</p> <p>The disabled/nappy changing toilet 14.3°C</p> <p>Childrens toilets 12.9° C</p> <p>These temperatures are all below the recommended comfortable room temperature of 18 – 22° C.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(c) New individual electric heaters have been fitted in each bathroom to meet temperature requirements. Images were provided.</p>

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Summary Comment:	Photographic evidence of new electric heaters and photographic evidence of air temperature readings were submitted to the Inspectorate for review. The requirement of Regulation 29(c) has now been met.
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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:	(1) and (2) There is 67m ² available in the care room with is adequate for the proposed 33 preschool children to be cared for on a sessional basis and 29 preschool children on a full day care basis aged 3 to 6 years in this room. The requirement of the regulation has been met.
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