

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.:	TU2015LS036
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Name of Service	Timahoe Tots
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Address of Service:	Timahoe, Co Laois, R32 DD51
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Email Address:	timahoetots@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Provider:	Deborah Quinn
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change:	Change in Number of Children that can be Accommodated from 40 to 51 (additional room). Addition of 11 preschool children attending on a sessional basis. Change in Number of Staff from 4 to 7 staff
Proposed Number of Children:	Change in Number of Children that can be Accommodated from 40 to 51
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Change in Number of Children that can be Accommodated from 40 to 51 (additional room). Addition of 11 preschool children attending on a sessional basis. Change in Number of Staff from 4 to 7 staff
Registered change:	Change in Number of Children that can be accommodated from 40 to 51 children. Change in Number of Staff from 4 to 7 Staff

Date of Inspection:	1	3	0	8	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by:	D. Molloy
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate
	Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore Co. Offaly R35K1W4

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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, Part-Time, Sessional Service for 51 Children
Date of Registration	19th August 2024

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	Timahoe Tots is a privately owned and operated full day care, part time and sessional service which has been in operation since 2008. The service is located in the village of Timahoe in rural Co. Laois. The service currently cares for children in the age range from 1 year to 6 years. The service operates between the hours of 8.00am to 6.00 pm from Monday to Friday
Premises	This converted domestic dwelling is a standalone bungalow located on the village green in Timahoe. The premises is used for the sole purpose of operating an early years' service. The service consists of an entrance lobby, a cloakroom area, a connecting hallway and there existing playrooms, and the new proposed room. A designated sleep room is provided. A kitchen and storeroom are also provided. There are five sanitary accommodations and one nappy changing facility, and a toilet for adults. A large secure outdoor play area is provided to the back of the service. Parking and set down is available on the public road.
Staffing	It is proposed that the service will be staffed by an additional three staff members including the registered provider. Early Childhood qualifications of staff range from level 5 to level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications
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 registered provider, 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The service had a designated person in charge and a named person 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

An adequate number of adults are proposed to work directly with the children in the service.

Up to 11 preschool children availing of sessional care can be accommodated in the proposed new room at any one time.

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) The service was equipped with adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and outdoors while in the service. Toys and equipment were noted to be freely available and accessible to the children and were developmentally appropriate and stimulating. The new playroom was set out in a child centred manner including

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particular areas of interest and soft seating and a rest area was provided. The outdoor play area can be accessed directly from the playroom.

(b) There were adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day. A cosy rest area was provided including, soft seating, cushions and soft floor matting.

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:

This requirement has been met.

It is proposed that children will bring in their own lunches in keeping with the Healthy Eating Policy of the service.

A fridge is provided for safe storage of the children’s lunches

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:

This requirement has been met.

The following measures were in place to safeguard the children’s health, safety, and welfare and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.

Infection Control.

- Wash hand basins with a constant supply of hot and cold water heated to a maximum of 43°C, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bins was provided in each sanitary accommodation and in the nappy changing area.
- Storage was provided to store spare clothing for children cared.
- Proposed cleaning schedules and a cleaning rota were open for inspection.

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	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning chemicals and sprays were stored out of reach of children. • Refuse bins were foot operated and it is proposed that some waste be recycled by the registered provider. • A pest control system was in place in the service
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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>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) All staff are qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) and will be available on the premises throughout the proposed opening hours.</p> <p>(2) (a)(b) A fully equipped first aid box is available in an accessible and conspicuous location in the playroom.</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>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(a) A recording system was in place to maintain records of any fire drills as conducted and it was proposed that a monthly fire drill be carried out.</p> <p>(b) The maintenance record for firefighting equipment in the service indicated that an annual service was conducted in March 2024. The smoke alarm system record has also been checked on September 1, 2024.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was wall mounted in the playroom.</p>
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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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>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. And the change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28</p> <p>The service had a proposed insurance certificate to confirm cover for the additional proposed 11 preschool children. This Insurance cover will be valid until end of March 2025.</p>
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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:

This requirement has been met.

(a) All internal walls and ceilings were freshly painted with no evidence of dampness or mould growth visible.

(b) All site boundaries were secure.

(c) The setting was well lit with a combination of natural and artificial light.

The light fittings were covered with shatterproof diffusers.

The service was heated by oil radiators that could be thermostatically controlled at between 18°C to 22°C.

Openable windows were in place in the playroom, sanitary accommodation, and kitchen.

(d) The setting was clean, and well maintained. A proposed cleaning schedule and a cleaning roster is available in the playroom room which would document the proposed cleaning.

The premises was maintained in a proper state of repair, the floor covering throughout were in good condition and were clean.

(e) There was one additional toilet and wash hand basin for the use of the proposed preschool children and an additional toilet was available for staff members.

The wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled hot water, heated to a maximum of 43°C, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bins. The toilets were ventilated by openable windows.

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.
- (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).

Requirement met:

(1) The new room, which was originally used as an office, in which it is proposed to operate the sessional preschool has enough free floor space to accommodate this proposal.

Sufficient floor space is available in this playroom.

Room name	Number of children proposed	Age range	Type of service	Space available	Space required
New Playroom	11	2years to 6 years.	Sessional	Total 21 m ² free space available	19.998 m ² is required to accommodate 11 preschool children in sessional care

(4)(a)(b) A minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for the proposed 11 sessional children to attend the additional room in this service.