

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.:	TU2015LS062
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Name of Service	Jigsaw Childcare
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Address of Service:	28 Bruach na hAbhann Killeen Laois R93XD42
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Email Address:	sulinderfinn@live.ie
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sulinder Finn
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input 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:	Increase the number of children cared for in the service from 22 to 27 children. Increase the number of staff in the service from 2 to 3 staff.
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Proposed Number of Children:	27
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Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Approved for a change in circumstances to increase the number of children cared for in a sessional service from 22 to 27 children across the two rooms in the service.
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Registered change:	Change in number of children service can accommodate to 27 Change in hours of operation from 08:00 -15:30 to 08:45 - 11:45 & 12:00 – 15:30
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Date of Inspection:	2	3	0	7	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by:	A Spain R Flynn
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore Co Offaly
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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 Sessional Service for 27 children
Date of Registration	15th September 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	Jigsaw Childcare is a sessional service in operation from a standalone leased premises in Kileen, Co Laois. The service provides sessional care to children in the age range 2 to 6 years between the hours of 8.45 and 11.45am. A second sessional service is offered between the hours of 12.00 and 3.30pm.
Premises	The premises is located in a rural village in south Laois. Rooms in use include an entrance hallway, two playrooms, namely the Tiger and Panda rooms, a combined storeroom, staff room and sanitary accommodation for both children and staff. An outdoor play area is provided directly outside of the service with direct access from both playrooms in use.
Staffing	The service is staffed by two staff members. The registered provider also works directly in the service.
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 Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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:

This requirement has been met.

(a)

The service has both 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.

Three staff members are available to work directly with a maximum of 27 children proposed in the age range 2 to 6 years for a sessional care service.

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.

(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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Suitable low level tables and chairs are provided in the playrooms to accommodate the proposed number of children to sit for play activities and rest as required. A good stock of play equipment and materials is provided on open shelving in both playrooms. The range of toys and materials available includes pencils, colours, paint, shapes and cutters for arts and crafts activities. Home corners are equipped with kitchens, cooking equipment, soft toys and prams. Puzzles, games, matching cards, jigsaws and shape insets are provided for tabletop activities. A variety of montessori equipment including beaded cubes, connecting toys and counters were provided in the "Tiger" playroom.

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Farm set, animals, toys on wheels and construction toys are provided for floor play in the rooms.

A reserve of toys is stored on open shelves in the storeroom located off the “Tiger” room for rotation depending on childrens interests.

The outdoor play area is surfaced with grass and can accommodate areas to play on outdoor play equipment. Space is also available for children to engage in energetic play outdoors. Play equipment available includes timber playhouses and vehicles with steering wheels to drive. A sink is provided in the mud kitchen area. Timber climbing frames, timber logs and large tyres safely anchored to the ground are provided for exploration, balancing activity and group play. Sand and water trays are provided for messy play. Picnic tables and chairs are provided for children to engage in tabletop activities outdoors and for children to sit and rest as required. A timber pergola with an open perspex roof is provided to facilitate outdoor play in inclement weather and to provide shade from the sun.

(b)

Rest areas are provided in both the “Panda” and “Tiger” playrooms. Low level soft seating, soft cushions, a soft floor mat and books on low level open shelving are provided in both rest areas for children if they wish to rest and take a break from activities.

(4)

The outdoor play area is safely and securely fenced in by a concrete wall at both gable ends of the premises. High level timber gates bolted from inside are provided at both gable ends of the premises to guard against unauthorised access to the outdoor play area and children playing outdoors. High level timber walls secure the sides and back of the outdoor play area to guard against unsupervised exit by children playing outdoors.

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.

The service has a refrigerator in the storeroom to store perishable foods provided from home for children's break time.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

There are separate entrances to both playrooms to facilitate a timely transition of children at drop off and collection times. Both glass panel doors leading to the playrooms allow easy visibility of all approaching the service and are provided with visibility strips to protect against impact damage. Both doors are secured with keys to guard against unsupervised exit by children. The entrance door at the front of the service and off the roadway is confined to staff use. This entrance is secured from inside and leads into a hallway off the playrooms.

The radiators in both playrooms are protected with timber guards which are safely secured to the walls. The electric wall heaters in both playrooms are located above child height. A child lock is provided on the press under the sink in the storeroom used to store cleaning agents and chemicals.

The refuse bins for refuse storage are located at the front of the building and an area children have no access to. The oil tank at the back of the premises is secured by a timber surround to prevent child access when playing outdoors.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

A staff member with FAR (first aid responder) training with an expiry date of the 17 July 2027 is available to work in the service. It is acknowledged that the registered provider submitted written confirmation advising that two further staff members are enrolled on FAR training.

(2)

First aid boxes are located on a high level shelf in the “Panda” playroom and on a high level windowsill in the “Tiger” playroom and in areas which are accessible to staff caring for children in attendance in the service.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

A record is maintained of monthly fire drills as conducted in the service.

(b)

The maintenance record for the fire-fighting equipment located in the front hallway, confirmed that they were newly installed in June 2025. The maintenance records for the smoke alarm system confirmed that a service was conducted in June 2025.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire is posted in the playrooms.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

The registered provider submitted a quotation for insurance cover for 27 children in daily attendance in a sessional service which is valid from the 2 April 2025 to the 27 March 2026. 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:

This requirement has been partially met.

(a) The service is well maintained with no evidence of defects, dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings.

(b) The service is connected to both the public drainage and water supply. The front door entrance and entrances of both playrooms are secured with keylocks. The open gable ends of the premises are secured with high level concrete walls and high level timber gates to guard against unauthorized access to the premises and outdoor play area.

(c) Openable windows in both playrooms coupled with fluorescent light fittings covered with shatterproof diffusers, ensure a good mix of both natural and artificial lighting as well as ventilation in the rooms. The oil fuelled radiators and the wall mounted electric heaters in both playrooms ensure room temperatures can be maintained between 18°C and 22°C during operational hours of the service. The children’s and staff sanitary accommodation are provided with mechanical ventilation operated from the light switches to the rooms. In addition, an openable window provides natural ventilation in the toilet cubicles located off the “Tiger” playroom.

(d) The heavy duty floor lino and brightly coloured walls are in a good state of repair and are well maintained. Furniture and play equipment is in a good state of repair and maintenance.

(e) A staff toilet and wash hand basin, plumbed with a hot and cold water supply is provided for the staff working in the service.

Two toilets and three wash hand basins plumbed with thermostatically controlled hot and cold water are provided for the proposed 27 children. The wash hand basins are serviced with liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bins.

Requirement not met:

(e) An additional functioning toilet is required to accommodate the proposed increase to 27 children. The toilet area must be ventilated.

Response from Provider:

(e) The registered provider submitted picture evidence on the 10 September 2025 to confirm that an additional toilet has been provided off the “Panda” room which is ventilated by a wall vent, connected directly to the outside air.

Summary Comment:

The evidence submitted by the registered provider meets the requirements of Regulation 29 (e).

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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 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.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

Adequate floor space is provided across the two playrooms in the service to accommodate the proposed number of 27 children in a sessional service.

(2)

An area of 29.26m² is provided in the “Panda” playroom.

An area of 36.78m² is provided in the Tiger” playroom.

Adequate floor space is provided across the playrooms in the service to accommodate the proposed increase to 27 children attending for sessional care.