

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015MH101

Name of Service Lámha Beaga

Address of Service: St. Patrick's GAA, Stamullen, Co. Meath K32 C433

Email Address: lamhabeagainfo@gmail.com

Name of Registered Providers: Cliona Fitzpatrick, Doreen Darcy and Karen Brogan

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: To increase the number of children being accommodated in the service from 30 up to 40 pre-school children in total.

Proposed Number of Children: 40

Recommended Change Following Inspection: The application to increase to 40 children accommodated in the service can be approved.

Registered change: Change in Number of Children from 30 to 40 children

Date of Inspection: 1 9 0 2 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: S. Taaffe

Title: Early years inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath C15 CP23

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 40 Children
Date of Registration	28 th February 2025

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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	Lámha Beaga is a privately owned sessional early years service which commenced operation in 2013. To date the service has accommodated a maximum of 30 pre-school children aged 2½ - 6 years and delivers the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme from 9.00am to 12.00midday each weekday for 38 weeks each year.
Premises	Lámha Beaga is conducted from St Patrick's GAA club house which is situated in a rural setting in Co. Meah with 2 care rooms in operation, Seomra Dearg and Seomra Buí. The service has access to 2 all-weather pitches and to a large hall on the ground floor of the GAA club.
Staffing	The three registered providers and 2 staff members work directly with the children in the service on a daily basis. An additional staff member is employed in a part-time capacity, working directly with the children in the service 2 days each week.
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 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.

One of the 3 registered providers is the designated person in charge of the service on a daily basis and one of the other 2 registered providers deputises in her absence when 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered providers are aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 ensuring that an adequate number of adults are at all times working directly with the children in the 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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) Both Seomra Dearg and Seomra Buí are conducted from defined spaces within larger rooms with storage units in place to establish two distinct pre-school rooms within the two larger rooms.

The two pre-school rooms are resourced with a suitable range of play materials and equipment laid out in defined interest areas to facilitate children to engage in play throughout the session. Play materials are stored in open-fronted low-level shelving units to facilitate the children to choose and access the items independently. The

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interest areas include home corners, construction areas, arts and crafts area and libraries. Outdoor play equipment including slides, hula hoops, balls and cones are provided to facilitate the children to play outdoors, and these are stored in the service's locked garden shed when not in use

(b) Rest areas are available in both care rooms with couches, soft floor mats and cushions provided to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the session if required.

(3)(a) Outdoor play area is facilitated in two adjoining fully enclosed outdoor sports pitches surfaced with short-pile artificial grass and an adjoining enclosed hard-surfaced space, located to the rear of the premises. These spaces are fully enclosed by high level fencing and no safety hazards are noted. A suitable range of play materials and equipment are available in the outdoor area to facilitate play.

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.

Parents provide snacks from home, in keeping with the service's healthy eating policy. Drinking water is available to the children throughout the session, to take when thirsty or desired.

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 met.

- The 2 separate entrance doors leading from the hallway on the first floor of the GAA clubhouse into the early years service are secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised or an unauthorised adult from entering. Glass panels on both sets of doors allow staff members to see parents and visitors, in order to facilitate their entry if appropriate.
- The door leading to the balcony adjoining Seomra Buí was appropriately secured with the key stored safely out of the reach of children making the balcony inaccessible to pre-school children.
- The windows and the window blind cords were appropriately secured.
- When using the toilet, children are accompanied by an adult at all times.
- There is running hot water, liquid soap, paper hand towel and electric hand dryers to support effective hand hygiene at the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation.
- The warm water supply at the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C
- A fridge is available both care rooms for the storage of perishable food items.
- Suitable bins are provided in the service to facilitate the hygienic disposal of waste.
- No trailing flexes, cables or electric items are accessible to the pre-school children.
- Medicines and cleaning agents are stored safely out of the reach of children.

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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 3 registered providers hold in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training, ensuring that a person with FAR training is at all times immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)(b) The first aid box is suitably equipped and easily accessible to the staff and available at all times for the children attending the service.

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) A record is maintained of the fire drills conducted at least on a monthly basis in the service.

(b) Records are available showing that the smoke detection system is certified as having been serviced on 23/09/2024 and the fire extinguishers serviced on 21/06/2024.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the premises.

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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 registered providers have insurance cover in place for 30 pre-school children attending the service on a sessional basis. The policy shows that the service is insured until 27/03/2025.

An insurance quotation to increase the number of pre-school children covered in the early years service’s insurance policy to 40 children, dated 28/01/2025 and valid until 27/03/2025, is available in the service. The registered providers must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the proposed change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers’ compliance with Regulation 28.

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 requirement has been met.

(a) The premises appears to be in sound condition and well maintained.

(b) The service is appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access.

The outdoor play areas are surrounded by high fencing with latched gates in place to secure the areas when children are playing outdoors.

(c)

Lighting

- The premises is adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating

- The service is heated by means of a central heating system.

Ventilation

- Ventilation in the care rooms and sanitary accommodation is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents.

(d) The premises is in a clean condition and appears to be in a good state of repair.

	<p>(e) The service is equipped with adequate sanitary facilities for the increased proposed total number of children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children attending the early years service are facilitated to access 3 toilets and 3 wash hand basins provided in the ladies sanitary accommodation on the first floor and a further 3 toilets and 3 wash hand basins provided in the ladies sanitary accommodation on the ground floor of the premises. The men’s toilets on the ground floor and the first floor are not accessed by the early years service. • The disabled-access toilet and wash hand basin on the first floor are available for use by staff members. • A wall-mounted nappy changing station is provided in the disabled-access toilet area.
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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.*
- (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.*

Requirement met:

- (1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement for a proposed maximum number of 40 pre-school children in the service.
- (3) The minimum space regulatory requirement can be met for 40 pre-school children proposed to attend the service on a sessional basis. The registered providers are aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7.
- On the day of the fit for purpose inspection and based on the positioning of the storage units which are set up to establish a defined pre-school room space within the larger room space, the clear floor space in Seomra Dearg measures 71.8 square metres. This meets the space requirements for 20 children aged 2½-6 years proposed to be accommodated in this room on a sessional basis.
 - On the day of the fit for purpose inspection and based on the positioning of the storage units which are set up to establish a defined pre-school room space within the larger room space, the clear floor space in Seomra Buí measures 48.6 square metres. This meets the space requirements for 20 children aged 2½-6 years proposed to be accommodated in this room on a sessional basis.