

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MH201
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Ashbourne Tiny Tots Care Creche & Montessori Ltd
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Killegland, Ashbourne, Co. Meath
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A84 N8P5
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Barbara Woods, Jeannie Kyle
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	7 February 2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	59	PM	37
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, Commons Road Navan, Co Meath
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	D. Murray & AM Cunningham
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors

### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

Ashbourne Tiny Tots Care, Creche & Montessori Ltd is privately owned and is 1 of 2 services operated by the registered providers. The service provides full day care, part time, sessional and school aged childcare to children from 0 to 6 years. The service operates from 07:15 am to 6:15pm Monday to Friday and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service is located over 2 floors and has an entrance hallway, 8 care rooms, kitchen, and sanitary facilities.

The rooms in the service are as follows:

On the ground floor: Koalas, Panda, Brown Bears and the Kangaroos rooms.

On the first floor: Clever Cats, Wise Owls, Sunflowers and Buttercups rooms.

A large outdoor space is located to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered providers employs a manager, deputy person in charge, 16 childcare staff and a cook. On the day of inspection there was the manager, deputy person in charge and 11 childcare staff present.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,20,21,22,23,25&26. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19,20,21,22 & 23. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the following rooms: Kangaroos, Koalas, Panda, Brown Bears and the Clever Cats rooms and did not include the Wise Owls, Sunflowers and Buttercups rooms.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

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.

### Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the manager, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

### 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,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

#### Compliance Information

(1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) From a review of the service file and discussion with the manager it was confirmed that 3 new staff members had been employed in the service since the last inspection. These files were reviewed and the following was noted.

- (a) Four validated written references were available from a past employer.
- (b) Two validated written reference were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for the three new staff.

(d) Police vetting was available for the three staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) The 3 new staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent

### 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.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

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

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there was a manager, deputy person in charge and 11 adults working directly with the 59 children attending the service. The manager and deputy person in charge were available to provide assistance as needed. One of the registered providers arrived after the inspection had commenced but left and was available by phone for feedback.

(2) The following adult to child ratios were observed when the service was operating at capacity on the day of inspection:

- In the **Koalas room** there were 2 staff with 8 children ranging in age from 8 months to 2 years all attending on a full day care basis.
- In the **Panda room** there were 2 staff with 5 children ranging in age from 2 to 2.6 years all attending on a full day care basis.

- In the **Brown Bears room** there was 1 staff with 5 children ranging in age from 2.6 years to 3 years all attending the full day care service.
- In the **Kangaroos room** there were 2 staff with 11 children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months to 6 years of which 8 were attending the full day care service and 3 attending the part-time/sessional service.
- In the **Clever Cats room** there was 1 staff with 5 children ranging in age from 2 years 6 months to 3 years all attending the full day care service.
- In the **Wise Owl room** there was 1 staff with 8 children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months to 4 years of which 6 were attending the full day care service with 2 attending the sessional service.
- In the **Sunflower room** there was 1 staff with 9 children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months to 3 years all attending the sessional service.
- In the **Buttercup room** there was 1 staff with 8 children ranging in age from 3 to 6 years all attending the sessional service.

(8) The registered provider ensured that there were always two adults on the premises when the service was in operation, as evidenced in the staff roster maintained in the service.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

#### Compliance Information

The staff spoke to all children in a positive way and listened attentively to each child. The staff were observed offering choices to the children, using the child's name, making eye contact and facilitating age appropriate choice. Children individual needs were met with additional care, attention and supervision given as required. In the Koalas and Pandas rooms children who became upset were nurtured and cuddled until they settled. In all care rooms the staff were actively involved in the children's play where appropriate. Children were observed enjoying meaningful, sustained play with tabletop activities, art and crafts and free playing with lots of conversation and laughter observed. Transitions were handled smoothly with staff giving the children ample time to complete one activity before starting the next. Staff members stated that the theme of the week was "Valentines" and the

“Solar System” with art works displayed to reflect these themes in the care rooms. The service showed a positive regard towards the families of the children and family links were nurtured in the service with family photographs displayed on the “All About Me” area in the care rooms. The children appeared comfortable, happy and relaxed in their environment. Children were observed enjoying outdoor play with their peers on the day of inspection.

## 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-
- (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, or

### Compliance Information

- (1)(b) The service had 2 cot rooms on the ground floor with a total of 10 cots for the children under 2 years requiring sleep. Stackable beds were available for the children over 2 years which were placed in the Brown Bears room. Within the care rooms there were soft furnishings, mats and cushions for children to take a break from activities and rest if needed.
- (3)(a) There was a suitable, safe and secure large outdoor space to the rear of the premises. The space was enclosed by walls, divided into different areas by fencing with an artificial grass covering.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The care rooms had areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials, Montessori equipment, art and crafts and a range of suitable toys.

The outdoor space consisted of three areas with an artificial grass surface, ride on toys, slides, plastic playhouses, walking beams, activity units, sand pits, musical and a sensory wall. A large shed was available which permitted outdoor play in all types of weather. The children were developing a “space theme” with the assistance of the staff. A large sandpit was also available within this area.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

The service had a 3-week menu plan with a variety of dishes ranging from meat, fish and poultry all prepared onsite. On the day of inspection, the children were given a snack at 10 am which consisted of cream crackers/rice cakes, pears, oranges and bananas. Dinner was served between 11:30am to 1pm which consisted of creamy chicken pasta.

Tea was served between 3 and 3:30pm consisting of sandwiches, fruit and yogurts with a light snack of toast and fruit before leaving for home. Water and milk were the drinks of choice.

## 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.

#### Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

The following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The main door to the service was secured with a buzzer system and the outdoor spaces were enclosed with walls and gates. These security measures ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor spaces.
- All play materials were placed on stable based shelving units. Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children present in the service.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- An indoor and outdoor risk assessment was conducted on a daily basis.

##### Infection Control:

The following infection control measures were observed:

- The hand washing policy and nappy changing policy were implemented in practice with appropriate hand washing for staff and children at all times.
- The service was clean with cleaning schedules maintained on a daily basis.
- Fridges were available in the care rooms for the refrigeration of perishable items.

##### Safe Sleep:

Safe sleep practices were observed in the service as demonstrated by the following examples:

- A thermometer was available in the cot rooms to ensure the temperature of the rooms were maintained between 16 to 20<sup>o</sup> C while children were sleeping.
- A sleep log on each child was recorded at 10 minutes intervals.
- Block out blinds were available which created an atmosphere conducive to sleep.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The service provided evidence that a person had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 17/01/2023.

(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The fighting equipment was last serviced in November 2022. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 18/11/2022.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the premises.