

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015MN050
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Name of Service	St. Oliver Plunkett's Community Preschool
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Address of Service:	Loughmourne, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, A75 PY66
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Email Address:	plunkettspreschool@outlook.com
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Name of Registered Provider:	Seamus Conlon
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change:	Increase in numbers accommodated from 39 to 50.
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Proposed Number of Children:	50
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Recommended Change Following Inspection:	An increase to the numbers attending based on the space available in the care rooms.
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Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 39 to 50
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Date of Inspection:	1	6	0	8	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by:	S. Cully
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate,
	No.18 The Grange Plantation Walk,
	Co. 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 50 Children
Date of Registration	30 th August 2023

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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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	St. Oliver Plunketts Community Preschool was established in 2010 and is a community-run childcare service. The service currently provides sessional, part-time, and full-day care to preschool children from 2–6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood and Education scheme (ECCE) and enrolls children from the minimum age of 2 years 8 months. The services hours of operation are from 08:00- 18:00hrs each weekday. School aged care is also provided.
Premises	The service is currently operating from a prefabricated building on the grounds of the local national school. There are 2 care rooms Junior and Senior preschool, an office, a kitchen, a staff room and sanitary accommodations. An extension to the Junior preschool room has been built to accommodate the proposed increase in the number of children. This is also where the staff room is located. There is a partially sheltered outdoor area to the rear and side of the building. A car park is available for drop off and collection on the school grounds.
Staffing	There are currently 6 members of staff employed in the service to work directly with the children. The manager plans to employ 1 more practitioner if the proposed increase in the number of children is approved.
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>
Acknowledgments	The Inspector(s) wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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:

The requirement has been met.

The service has a designated person in charge and a named person as 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.

(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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6 and that those requirements change outside of sessional preschool hours. The registered provider has ensured that an adequate number of adults would be available at all times to work directly with the children in the service.

(8)(a) The person in charge ensures that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times when the service is in operation.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) The requirement has been met.

The Junior preschool room is well-resourced with a range of materials and equipment that would support a variety of play experiences for the targeted age range. Interest areas were laid out and clearly defined including sensory play stations, construction area, art and crafts area, table-top activities, reading corner and open-ended materials. In the new extension of the room there are areas for small-world play, a home corner and a cosy corner. The Senior preschool room is also well-resourced with interest areas, age-appropriate equipment and the addition of Montessori-inspired materials and activities. This room is sectioned into two spaces by means of a low, retractable fitted barrier so that children can work and play in smaller groups. A suitable variety and selection of equipment and materials are available in both areas of the room. The storage of materials in all care rooms are on low-level shelving units that allow children to easily access materials of choice. The furniture in each room is also age appropriate. There is a suitable storage area for children's belongings located in the hallway between the main entrance and the entrance to the senior preschool room.

The outdoor space is laid with artificial grass and partially covered with a large area of the garden under a roofed shelter. This space is set up for outdoor learning, with a selection of educational and play materials, outdoor furniture and visual routines and choice boards. The remainder of the outdoor area provides space for gross motor activities, ride-along toys and bikes, an outdoor kitchen and picnic benches.

(b) Cosy areas are available in both care rooms which included rugs, seat pads, soft cushions and foldable soft mats should the children choose to take a break from the activities during the day. The inspector was informed that should a child need to nap while attending full day care, there are daybeds and bed linens available.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.

The inspector was informed that all children bring their morning snack to preschool which are then stored in fridges located in the Senior preschool room. A snack is provided by the service at lunch time, followed by a hot meal for those still in attendance in the afternoon. The meals are sourced from an outside caterer and reheated in the kitchen before serving. Potable drinking water is available for children to drink.

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 requirements have been met.

- There is warm running water at each handwash basin alongside a provision of liquid hand soap and paper towels to support effective handwashing practices.
- There are step stools in the children’s sanitary facilities to support safe access and use of toilets, nappy changing mat and hand wash basins.
- In the Junior preschool room sanitary accommodation suitable privacy screens and doors are installed on each of the 2 available toilets to afford children with privacy when toileting while also allowing for discreet supervision.
- Cleaning agents are stored out of children's reach.
- Pedal-operated lidded bins are available for the collection of waste in the care rooms and sanitary facilities.
- The external doors and windows are appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The door to access the service is locked at all times and opened by staff to parents or visitors who use the doorbell to signal arrival.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to the children.
- Fire exits are clearly marked and unobstructed.
- In the Junior preschool room, electrical heaters that are mounted low on the walls are fitted with protective metal coverings.
- Furniture and storage units are in good and stable condition.
- The outdoor area is secure and free of hazards.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) Two staff members have in-date first aid responder training.

(2)(a)&(b)
A well-supplied first aid bag is available and safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the service and is available in the pre-school 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) A written record is available of the fire drills completed on a monthly basis in the service.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type, and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system of the service. The firefighting equipment was last serviced in October 2022 and the smoke alarms were serviced on 20/10/2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the care rooms in the service. The fire assembly point is clearly identified by signage on the wall to the rear of the premises.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met. An insurance certificate confirming insurance for 55 children attending the service at any one time up until 27/03/2024 is available.

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 building appeared to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) The service is safe and secure. The entrance door to the service is secured adequately to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service. The outdoor area is also secured by a suitable boundary fence.

(c) Both care rooms in the service have a number of windows which provides the room with natural light. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Appropriate protective coverings are provided on the ceiling lighting. The temperature of the Junior preschool room was 19°C and Senior preschool was 18.9°C on the day of inspection.

There are a sufficient number of windows provided in all of the care rooms to achieve adequate ventilation.

Natural ventilation is available in all sanitary facilities in the service through means of openable windows.

With the exception of the extension to the Junior preschool room, the service is heated by oil-fired central heating. The extension area is heated by mounted electrical heaters.

(d) The service was in a clean condition on the day of inspection. Cleaning schedules are available.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>(e) The building was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. There are 5 toilets and 5 wash hand basins available for the children as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two toilets and 2 wash hand basins are available for children in the Junior preschool room, • Three toilets and 3 hand wash basins are available for children in the Senior preschool room. <p>One toilet and 2 hand wash basins are available in the service for staff use. A nappy changing table is provided in the Junior preschool sanitary accommodation. Warm water not exceeding 43 °C, liquid soap and paper towels is available at all the hand wash basins in the service.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement of the 50 pre-school children proposed to attend the service.</p> <p>(2) The total clear floor space of Junior preschool room including the new extension was 48.75m² This provides sufficient space for the proposed 20 children between the age of 2 years 8 months to 4 years to be cared for in this room on a sessional ECCE basis.</p> <p>The total clear floor space of the Senior preschool room was 89.29m² which provides sufficient space for 30 children between the age of 3 to 5 years to be cared for in this room on a sessional/part time/full time basis.</p>
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