

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015MO038

Name of Service: Darias Daycare

Address of Service: Moygownagh Community Centre, Moygownagh, Ballina, Co. Mayo. F26 HH87

Email Address: carmelorme@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms. Carmel Orme

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional	
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Change in type of service from sessional to a part time service.

Proposed Number of Children: No change – 15 children.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: To remain as an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional care pre-school, can currently accommodate a maximum of 11 children due to staffing levels.

Registered change: Change not approved – Registered Sessional Service for 15 children, however due to current staffing levels maximum of 11 until second staff member recruited

Date of Inspection: 1 8 0 8 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: H. Heagney

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 15 Children
Date of Registration	25 th September 2023

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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	<p>This community operated service is registered to operate for 15 children, at any one time. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional care pre-school programme will be offered. The pre-school will continue to cater for children aged between 2 to 6 years of age. The new registered provider advises that a child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on emerging interests and an enquiry-based programme will be provided.</p> <p>The service proposed to offer a part time service from 9.00hrs to 14.00hrs, from Monday to Friday, hence the fit for purpose inspection. However, a staff member unexpectedly resigned thereby closing this application.</p> <p>As there is only one qualified staff member the pre-school will operate with a maximum number of eleven children at any one time.</p>
Premises	<p>This pre-school operates on the ground floor of a purpose-built detached premises, beside the community centre and football pitch, in the village of Moygownagh, Co. Mayo. There is one large playroom, adjacent to the outdoor play area. There is a designated kitchen. A quiet rest area is provided in the playroom, and stackable beds are available for any potential child attending the part time service, requiring sleep provision. There is a secure outdoor play area to the rear of the premises for children to have fresh air and a range of play experiences. The children will also have access under supervision during inclement weather, to the community hall.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider who is supernumerary, was on the premises on the day of the inspection. The person in charge will operate the service with the assistance of a staff member on an employment scheme. The person in charge holds a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 6, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.</p>
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</p>

	<p>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.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment	
<p>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.</p>	
Requirement met:	<p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>The service has a named person in charge.</p> <p>A second person on a community employment scheme, familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge, will be working in the service and able to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.</p>

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels	
<p>(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.</p> <p>(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(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,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.</p>	

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Requirement met:	<p>(1)</p> <p>It is proposed that there will be a maximum of eleven children at any one time attending the pre-school service from September 2023.</p> <p>There will be one staff member working directly with the children from 9.00hrs to 12.00hrs. A second adult on a community childcare scheme will be supervised when interacting with the children.</p> <p>(8)(a)&(c)</p> <p>The person in charge will operate the service. An adult over the age of 18 years on a community employment scheme, will be the second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge and available to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>Additionally, the co-ordinator of the community employment scheme is within a short distance and close by and will be in a position to assist in case of an emergency.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>There was an insufficient number of staff for the proposed part time service, operating from 12.00hrs to 14.00hrs. There was one qualified staff member when two staff are required to be on the premises, for a part time service provision.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that a staff member had resigned unexpectedly.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>On the 29th of August 2023, the registered provider advised that the service had unsuccessfully recruited for a second qualified staff member to act as childcare relief and work the part time service hours.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The pre-school service will remain operating an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional care pre-school programmes only. The application to change to a part time service has been closed. The maximum number of children will be 11 children.</p>

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.
- (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.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The design, organisation, and resourcing of the indoor and outdoor environment would be able to support each child’s wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service.</p> <p>The playroom and outdoor area were designed and arranged to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter, • divided into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support proposed children’s play, development, and learning, • give all proposed children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development. <p>The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was thereby readily accessible to the proposed pre-school children.</p> <p>The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, they were designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.</p> <p>The Playroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play materials and equipment were developmentally appropriate. <p>In the playroom, items included books, tracks, transport vehicles, wooden pieces, magnets, mix and match, bricks, blocks, shapes, animals, scoops, and small world. There were connectors, links, pins, pin boards, puzzles, insets, games, potato heads, and musical instruments. There was a kitchen with pots, pans, a mixer, toaster, scissors, telephones, trays, food items, and an ice cream cart. There were art and craft items including stickers, rollers, bobbins, paint brushes, paper, crepe paper, art trays, easels, paints, stampers, rolling pins, playdough, feathers, glue, and crayons. There was a sand and water unit with utensils. There were hair dressing items, dolls, and baby accessories.</p>
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Additional play materials and equipment were stored in a nearby meeting room and rotated on a seasonal basis.

- Displayed on the walls were educational posters, and visual aids including my first colours and shapes, rockets, space, birthdays, the alphabet, I love the world, transport vehicles, my first numbers, a tree, and our community. There were notice boards, a white board, and mirrors.

(1)(b)

A rest quiet area was provided in the playroom, in the form of child size soft seating, and mats to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to. There were two stackable beds available in the pre-school service for any child attending the proposed part time service requiring sleep provision.

(3)(a)

Outdoor area

The registered provider advised that the outdoor area would be an extension of the indoor environment and linked with the learning that goes on inside.

The registered provider advised that the children would have the opportunity to be outside as often as possible, in all suitable weather conditions.

The outdoor play area was to the rear of the premises and consisted of an impact absorbing surface and concrete pathways. The outdoor area was secured by fencing, and gates.

On the day of inspection, items included bicycles, tractors, ride on toys, buckets, and toys. There was a house, two picnic tables, a mud kitchen, and a buddy bench. There was a planting area and a wooden activity centre with a slide and climbing system.

There was a wooden shed for the storage of the outdoor door equipment.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

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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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service had a healthy eating policy. • It is proposed that parents and guardians will provide food for their child’s snack time. • The registered provider is proposing that children attending the service on a part time basis would have two meals, supplied by the parents and guardians. The registered provider advised that the staff will ensure that each meal will have two food groups. • The registered provider advised that there will be a supply of food in a pantry store in the kitchen, for any child requiring additional food. • The registered provider advised that a drinks table will be available in the playroom and in the outdoor area to allow the children the opportunity to ‘self-serve’ their drinks. • The registered provider advised that perishable items from children’s lunch boxes will be stored in a designated fridge.
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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:	<p>General Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a buzzer access system, into the main entrance front door. • The staff only areas, kitchen, sanitary area and second playroom (currently a storage area) were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child. • The external play area was secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area. • Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed. • All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children. • A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance were kept for all of the children, attending the pre-school.
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- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted and secured to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- The underfloor heating system used oil, and was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the playroom temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- Windows were fitted with safety devices to restrict openings. There were visibility stickers on the glass doors as a safety precaution. Two of the windows had blinds which had no cords.
- There were records of a regular pest control system with the last service dated 16th of August 2023.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There was a documented risk assessment system for the indoor and outdoor play areas, for checking that toys and equipment were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.
- The registered provider clearly identified to the early years inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.
- There were no pits or ponds in the outdoor area to cause any risk of danger to the proposed pre-school children.

Infection Control

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- A refrigerator was provided in the kitchen for the storage of perishable foods.
- The playroom room was observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows and doors left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the

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required levels. In the playroom, there were a number of glass panes that were not openable but gave natural light.

- The registered provider had a cleaning schedule template and cleaning records for the materials, equipment, and furnishings.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) One staff member who is working in the pre-school service had evidence of a current paediatric first aid qualification.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and in an easily accessible conspicuous position.
- (b) The first aid box was readily available, with content items within date.

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) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills.
- (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment in the service was on file.
- Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated 31st of March 2023.
- Records indicated that the last annual maintenance certificate for the smoke and fire detection system was dated 5th of May 2023.

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| | (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the playroom. |
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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>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The service had insurance for a sessional service and a quotation with an expiry date 28th of March 2024, which was for a part time care service for 22 children and included the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public liability insurance, • insurance against fire and theft, • buildings insurance, • insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision. <p>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.</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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(a) The registered provider confirmed that she was not aware of any structural issues with the premises.</p> <p>(b) The indoor playroom and the outdoor play area were safe and secure.</p> <p>(c) There was natural lighting in the pre-school room with windows the outer walls.</p> <p>The proposed indoor playroom was well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors.</p>
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	<p>The artificial lighting provided in the indoor playroom was shatter proof.</p> <p>The underfloor heating system using oil, had a thermostatically controlled thermostat to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C for the indoor room. On the day of inspection, the indoor room temperature was maintained between 20.1°C. There was evidence that the water heating system was serviced in August 2023.</p> <p>The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature and the registered provider advised it would be no greater than 43°C.</p> <p>(d) In the proposed indoor playroom and the outdoor area, the play and work equipment were clean and in good repair.</p> <p>Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from and inaccessible to the pre-school children.</p> <p>From observation, the furnished indoor and outdoor area were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.</p> <p>(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.</p> <p>There were two designated children’s toilets with two designated children’s wash hand basins.</p> <p>There was a designated adult only toilet with a designated wash hand basins in the pre-school.</p> <p>There was a designated nappy changing area with a wash hand basin. There was a supply of disposable aprons and gloves for staff involved in the nappy changing procedure.</p> <p>Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in dispensers were within easy access to a pre-school child.</p> <p>Foot pedal lidded bins were provided in the sanitary areas.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

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- (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 full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the 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.
- (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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed indoor playroom for the free movement of children to work and play.</p> <p>(2)(3)&(4)</p> <p>The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children. The measurement of the playroom floor space was 27.2 square meters thus, ensuring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service. <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a minimum of 2.35 square metres of clear floor space will be available for children aged 2 to 3 years, proposing to attend the part time service. – a minimum of 2.3 spare metres of clear floor space will be available for children aged 3 to 6 years, proposing to attend the part time service.
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