

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015MO076

Name of Service Louisburgh Childcare CLG.

Address of Service: Cairde Caher, Ard Caher, Louisburgh, Co Mayo, F28 HE27

Email Address: louisburghchildcare@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Barbara Daly

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: Change of use of Room 2 from sessional service only to sessional and full day care service provision and increase the number of children attending the room from 22 sessional children, to 28 children attending sessional services and 16 children attending full day care services.

Proposed Number of Children: 43 Sessional (Maximum 31 Full Day Care)

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Approve all changes

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 37 (Max 15 Full Day Care) to 43 (Max 31 Full Day Care)

Date of Inspection:	2	5	0	3	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: M. Farrell

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care / Sessional Service for 43 Children (Max 31 Full Day Care)
Date of Registration	30 th April 2024

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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	Louisburgh Childcare CLG. is a non-profit community owned and operated childcare facility. The service is registered to provide full day care, part time and sessional childcare services to children aged from one to six years of age between 08:30 to 17:30 hours.
Premises	There are two large care-rooms in the service, a separate sleep room and sanitary facilities. The children have access to two enclosed outdoor play areas to the rear and side of the premises.
Staffing	There are ten staff working in the service including the manager, childcare staff and relief staff.
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 deputy person in charge and staff who were 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.

(1)

(a) There is a designated person in charge in the service.

(b) There is a named person to deputise in the service as needed.

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)

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The children to attend Room 2 are to be aged over 3 years with the required sessional child ratios for this age group of 1 adult for every 11 children to be maintained by the service. It is proposed that 2 staff members will care directly for the proposed 16 children aged over 3 years to attend full day care services in Room 2.

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.

(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

(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

<p>Requirement met:</p>	<p>The requirement has been partially met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(a)</p> <p>Room 2 has large amounts of toys and play equipment for the proposed additional children to attend sessional and full day care services in the room. There are well equipped defined interest areas in the care-room including a kitchen/ home corner, shop area, construction area, transport area, table-top activity area and book area. There are additional stores of play equipment and books in a storeroom beside the care-room for rotation depending on children’s interests. Age-appropriate art and craft equipment is available in the care-room. Messy play is facilitated with water and sand tables and equipment for playdough work. The toys and play equipment are displayed in open accessible storage, at low levels supporting a child-led learning environment.</p> <p>Tables and age-appropriate chairs are provided for the children to facilitate tabletop activities, snack time and group work in the proposed care-room. The enclosed outdoor area at the side and rear of the premises has a range of play opportunities for children including fixed play equipment and ride on cars to support physical activity. There is a large wooden shelter with well-equipped mud kitchen and sand area and a wooden playhouse with seating for children to play in. Circular wooden seating is provided in the outdoor area for children and staff.</p> <p>(b) The service proposes that the children attending full day care services in the care-room will be aged over three years of age. Stackable beds are available should a child need to rest/sleep. Sheets/bed linen that is to be regularly laundered in the service are provided. There is a rest area in the care-room in an alcove beside the book area. This rest area has very large, coloured cushions with washable covers and a rug for the children to rest and relax in.</p>
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	<p>(3)</p> <p>(a)</p> <p>The enclosed outdoor area that is to be used by the proposed additional children to the rear and side of the building is accessible through sliding doors from the care-room and is secure. The entrance gates to the enclosed outdoor area have securing mechanisms in place for staff to control access to the area. The outdoor area has a canopy extending over sections of the outdoor space providing shelter. Ground coverings include a large grass area where the fixed play equipment is positioned and there is wooden decking under the canopy with black matting in place over it. There is paving and paths for children to use the ride on toys on. A storage shed is available in the outdoor area to store toys and play equipment.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(3)</p> <p>(a)</p> <p>There were some potential safety risks to the children posed by the sensory/water wall in the outdoor area. Several metal items were very rusty and the bottom of the wooden base of the sensory/water wall was damaged with splinters protruding from it. A plastic container attached to the sensory/water wall was cracked and posed a potential pinch point risk.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>The service responded in writing stating that:</p> <p>(3)</p> <p>(a)</p> <p>The sensory wall was removed.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The regulatory requirement has now been met.</p>

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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.

- It is proposed that healthy snacks for the children are provided from home and the main warm nutritious meal for the children is to be provided by the service sourced from outside caterers in line with the service’s healthy eating policy.
- The staff advised the inspector that drinking water is to be available to the children at all times in the service.

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:

General Safety

- Blind cords on windows in the care-room have securing devices in place.
- The half door to the kitchenette in the care-room has a securing device for staff to control access to the area.
- Secure storage for medication is available in a high cupboard in the kitchenette that is secured to prevent children from accessing the area.
- Safe storage inaccessible by children is provided for cleaning products in the kitchenette.
- The toys and equipment in use in Room 2 are in good condition and free from hazard.

Infection control:

- Refrigerators are provided in the kitchenette for the storage of perishable food items.
- Aprons and gloves are provided for use by the staff in the nappy change area.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of regular pest control services are available with the last service dated for the 16 February 2024. The outdoor waste storage bins are located at the front of the building and are inaccessible to children in the service.
Requirement not met:	Infection control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the waste bins in the nappy change unit off the lobby is a push top bin and is not the required foot pedal operated bin.
Response from Provider:	<p>The service responded in writing stating that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The waste bin was replaced with a foot pedal operated bin. A photograph of the new bin was submitted by the service to the Early Years Inspectorate.
Summary Comment:	The requirement has now been met.

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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) Certificates of completion of First Aid Responder (FAR) training were available for two staff members dated the 10 February 2025 and 24 October 2025 respectively.
- (2)
 - (a) A suitably equipped labelled first aid box is stored on a shelf in the care-room out of potential reach of children.
 - (b) The first aid equipment is to be always available to 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 partially met.

- (1)
 - (a) Templates are available for the written recording of any fire drills that take place in the premises.
 - (b) Records in writing are available in the service of the number, type and installation record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The records

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	<p>show that the smoke alarms/fire detection system were last maintained on the 14 November 2023.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed in conspicuous positions in the care-room. The fire assembly point at the front of the building was clearly signposted.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(1)</p> <p>(b) The record available in the service recorded that the firefighting equipment was last maintained on the 29 April 2022 and was not annually as required.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(1)</p> <p>(b) A firefighting equipment service certificate dated the 1 January 2024 is now wall mounted on a notice board in the service. A copy of the record was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate by the service on the 22 April 2024.</p>
Summary Comment:	The regulatory requirement has now been met.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement not met:	There was no insurance quotation available for the proposed maximum number of 43 children in the service.
Response from Provider:	<p>The service responded in writing stating that:</p> <p>An insurance quotation has now been sought. A copy of the insurance quotation valid from the 28 August 2024 until the 27 March 2025 increasing the maximum number of children to 48 children was submitted by the service.</p>
Summary Comment:	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 provider's 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:

The requirement has been partially met.

- (a) No obvious defects were observed in the building structure.
- (b) The main entrance door at the front of the service was secured with a keypad and buzzer system to prevent unauthorised entry to the area and children from leaving unnoticed. The door to the outdoor area from the care-room has a securing mechanism in place allowing staff to control access to and from the care-room. Internal doors have mechanism in place to allow staff to control children’s access.
- (c) **Lighting:**
There is natural light is provided through windows and artificial lighting provided in the premises which is adequate and suitable for the provision of childcare services. The light fittings in Room 2 and in the sanitary areas are encased with protective covers.
Heating:
There is underfloor heating in the premises.
Ventilation:
There are two openable windows in Room 2. A new mechanical ventilation system has also been recently installed in the service with a unit in Room 2 that is awaiting commissioning in the coming weeks. The sanitary unit beside the care-room has an openable window to provide ventilation.
- (d) Room 2 and the sanitary areas are clean and maintained in a satisfactory condition. Cleaning schedules are in place in the service with templates provided for staff to record cleaning processes.

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	<p>(e) There is a waist high nappy changing unit available in the sanitary unit off the entrance lobby.</p> <p>Adult sanitary accommodation</p> <p>A sanitary unit with a toilet and wash hand basin is provided for the staff. The inspector was advised by the staff facilitating the inspection that a maximum of seven staff will be in the service at any one time. The facilities meet the regulatory requirements of one unit with toilet and wash hand basin for each eight staff members.</p> <p>Liquid soap, paper hand towels are provided for hand washing and drying with foot pedal operated bins provided in the children’s sanitary unit for the disposal of waste. The hot water temperatures of the taps in all the sanitary units’ wash hand basins were recorded below 43°C during the inspection.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(b) The window restrictors on the window in the lobby of the sanitary unit and on a window in the hallway leading to the sanitary area are broken and require replacement.</p> <p>(c) There are no audible sounds from the mechanical ventilation systems in the nappy changing unit and children’s sanitary unit and the mechanical ventilation systems do not appear to be operating.</p> <p>(e) 1. There are two toilets and two wash hand basins available for the proposed 28 children to attend in the care-room. The requirement is that there is one toilet and one wash-hand basin for every 11 toilet-trained early years children. A third toilet and wash-hand basin is required to accommodate 28 children.</p> <p>2. The push button mechanism on one of the toilets in the children’s sanitary unit was broken and required repair/replacement.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>The service stated in written responses that:</p> <p>(b) Window restrictors have been replaced. Photographic evidence was submitted by the service to the Inspectorate.</p> <p>(c) Ventilation systems have been replaced.</p>

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	<p>(e) 1. A third toilet and wash hand basin is to be installed.</p> <p>2. A cover for the toilet push button is to be installed with the plumbing works.</p> <p>The service submitted photographic evidence to the Early Years Inspectorate on the 29 April 2024 of the works carried.</p>
Summary Comment:	The regulatory requirements have now been met.

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 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.*
- (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 clear floor space of 65.2 square metres is provided in Room 2 for the proposed 28 children attending sessional service and 16 children to attend full day care service in the room.</p> <p>(2) The regulations require that 2.3 square meters of clear floor space is available for each child aged 3 years and over. The service proposes that 16 children will attend this room with 36.8 square meters of clear floor space required. Room 2 has 65.2 square meters of clear floor space and can accommodate the proposed 16 children aged 3 years and over.</p> <p>(4) The minimum of 1.818 square metres is available for children in Room 2 where sessional pre-school services and full day care service are to be provided at the same time.</p>
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