

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015MO102

Name of Service Robeen Community Playschool

Address of Service: Robeen, Hollymount, Co Mayo, F12 X761

Email Address: robeenrascals@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Tomas Geraghty

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 60 to 80 children.

Proposed Number of Children: The service's initial proposal was for 80 children however the service has further advised that they propose to accommodate children in the following playrooms:

Baby room: 12 children
 Wobbler/toddler room:22 children
 Junior preschool: 22 children
 Senior preschool: 22 children
Total= 78 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: At present with consideration to present sleep accommodation and sanitary provision the service can accommodate the following maximum number of children:

Baby room: 10 children
 Wobbler/Toddler room:22 children
 Junior preschool: 22 children
 Senior preschool: 22 children
Total= 76 children

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 60 to 76

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

Inspection undertaken by: S. Gallagher & M. Farrell

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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.
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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 76 Children
Date of Registration	7 th February 2023

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	Robeen Community Playschool is located in a rural area in Robeen, County Mayo. The service is registered to provide full day care services to children aged between 0 and 6 years from 08:00-18:00hours. The service is registered to provide school aged childcare services.
Premises	The premises is a detached two storey building that was originally built as a community centre with childcare facilities included but is now used exclusively for the provision of childcare. There are four playrooms in the service, three of which are located on the ground floor and one on the upstairs floor. Sanitary facilities, an office and staff room are also provided in the building.
Staffing	There are 16 staff working in the service including a manager, childcare workers and cook. The registered provider is not directly involved in the daily operation of the service.
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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children 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:

(1) (a)

The requirement has been met. The service has designated person in charge and a named 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.

Requirement met:

(1)

The following staffing levels are provided in the service:

Baby playroom: At present there is a maximum of 9 children attending the playroom with 3 staff provided.

Toddler/Wobbler playroom: At present there is maximum 20 children attending the Toddler playroom with 4 staff provided.

Junior Preschool playroom: At present there is maximum 18 children attending the playroom with 3 staff provided.

Senior Preschool Playroom: At present there is maximum 25 children attending the with 3 staff provided.

It is proposed that adequate numbers of adults will be working with the children at all times during service provision.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been partially met.

(1)(a)

Adequate and suitable play facilities are in place in the four playrooms to cater for children from 0 to 6 years. The playrooms are laid out with a number of defined interest areas. Play resources in the Baby room includes baskets of toys, a mirror for children to see their reflection, a bar to assist a child to pull themselves up to a standing position, a play gym, a tunnel, wipeable foam matting and wipeable foam shapes. The play equipment in the Toddler room has a selection of toys including figurines, a library area, a slide, dolls, buggies, transport vehicles, puzzles and table-top activities. The Junior and Senior Preschool rooms are resourced with a variety of play equipment including a home area, construction toys, dress-up outfits, arts and crafts, figurines, blocks of various sizes, jigsaws and puzzles. All equipment and materials in the playrooms throughout the service are stored on low level shelving units to facilitate a child led learning environment. Low level tables and chairs were provided in all playrooms.

(1)(b)

The following facilities were provided for rest in the service:

A separate sleep room containing 5 standard cots with safety mattresses was provided used by the children attending the Baby playroom.

This would accommodate the following age range of children:

Age range approximately	Number of cots
6 months	1 cot for each child
9 months	Cots available for two-thirds of children in this age.
18 months -2 years	Cots available for half the children in this age range.

	<p>A section of the toddler playroom was cordoned off for the children aged under 2 years requiring sleep in the playroom with four standard cots provided. At present a maximum of 8 children aged 18 months -2 years can be accommodated in this sleep area.</p> <p>Stackable beds were provided in the Toddler and Junior Preschool playrooms for children over 2 years of age to rest on. The playrooms were able to be darkened and were large enough to accommodate sleeping and children who were awake.</p> <p>A rest area is provided in the playrooms should a child wish to relax/opt out of activities.</p> <p>(3)(a)</p> <p>Suitable secure outdoor play areas were provided for the children in the service An enclosed outdoor space was located to the rear of the building and was divided into two areas, one that was used by the children attending the Toddler playroom and a second area shared by the children from the Junior and Senior playrooms. The areas had ground coverings of grass and artificial grass and had numerous play items to promote physical activity and imaginative play such as climbing systems, ride on toys, mud kitchens. Seating was provided outdoors. The area used by the Toddler playroom had the recent addition of an enclosed outdoor sheltered structure constructed from wood and clear plastic with artificial grass ground covering and held toys such as balls, a slide and a tunnel. A recently developed enclosed outdoor area has been developed directly off the Baby room and is used by children attending this room. The area has a roof shelter and an artificial grass ground covering.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(1)(b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The temperature of the Baby sleep room was recorded a 29.2°C at 12:40 hours and when the staff were informed immediate action was taken to lower the temperature by turning off the heat to the radiator and opening the window and when the temperature was rechecked at 13.15 hours the air temperature was 20.4°C. 2. There was no safety mark on one of the cot mattresses in the Toddler sleep area. 3. There was a loose screw posing a hazard to a child on a cot in the Toddler sleep area. 4. Two cots in the sleep area in the Toddler playroom were positioned beside a radiator. It is acknowledged that this radiator was not switched on and heated. 5. One of the cots in the Baby sleep room were positioned beside a radiator that was heated. <p>(3)(a)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The height of the enclosure on the top of the climbing system in the outdoor area used by children from Senior and Junior Preschool rooms was only 60cm with the potential for a child to climb over and fall from a height. 7. Sections of the artificial grass in the outdoor area were inadequately secured and lifting upwards posing potential tripping hazards.

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	<p>8. A section of wooden equipment near the Senior Preschool playroom was damaged with a rusty nail exposed and posed a safety risk to a child.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>(1)(b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The thermostat was serviced in the Baby room to control and maintain the correct temperature. 2. A new mattress is ordered and will be checked before use that safety label is attached to mattress. 3. The loose screw is tightened now and is fitted securely. 4. Two cots in the sleep area in the Toddler playroom are now removed from the beside the radiator. 5. The cot is now positioned away from the heated radiator in the Baby room sleep room. 6. The height of the enclosure on the top of the climbing system in the outdoor area used by children from Senior and Junior Preschool rooms will be 1 metre. This will prevent the risk and hazard for a child to climb over and fall from a height. 7. Artificial grass will be refitted with new studs so that we can provide a safe and secure area for children to play outside free from trip hazards. 8. A small wooden area in the outdoor area will be removed from the outdoor area. <p>Supporting Evidence submitted: The service submitted the following evidence to the Early Years Inspectorate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Photographic evidence of a thermostat set between 15-20°C was submitted on the 12 December 22. 2. Photographic evidence of a new cot mattress was submitted on the 7 December 22. 4. Photographic evidence of the repositioning of the cots in the Toddler room was submitted on the 7 December 22 5. Photographic evidence of the repositioning of the cots in the Baby room was submitted on the 7 December 22. 6. Photographic evidence of the repair to the climbing system submitted on the 7 December 22. 7. Photographic evidence of the repairs to the artificial grass was submitted 7 December 22. 8. Photographic evidence of the removal of the wooden equipment was submitted on the 7 December 22.
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>An immediate action notice was issued by the Early Years Inspectorate to the service on the 10 November 2022 in relation to the sleep room temperature reading of 29.2°C. The service responded to the Early Years Inspectorate by email on the 11 November 2022 with immediate actions taken to address this unmet registration requirement.</p> <p>The regulatory requirements have 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 a nutritious main meal is provided by the service. Breakfast is available for children who need it. Prepared formula is provided for infants from home.
- The staff advised the inspectors that bottled water is available in the service and the children are to bring drinks from home in individually identifiable containers.

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

- Safe storage out of reach of children was provided for cleaning products and equipment.
- Secure storage for medication is available in the service.
- The door to the kitchen was secured to prevent access by children.
- The toys and equipment in use in the playrooms are in good condition and free from hazard.
- The stairway had a non-slip floor covering and handrails in place.
- The outdoor area was secured with the oil tanks cordoned off to prevent access by the children and the boiler room secured to prevent access.

Infection control:

- Refrigerators are provided for the storage of perishable food items.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers are provided throughout the service.
- Aprons and gloves are provided for use.
- Records of regular pest control services are available.
- The outdoor waste storage bins are inaccessible to children in the service.

Requirement not met:

General Safety:

Indoors:

1. Blind cords in the Baby, Toddler, Senior Preschool playrooms were not secured and posed potential safety risks to children. It is acknowledged that once this was highlighted to the designated person in charge immediate action was taken and a maintenance person attended the service during the inspection and secured the blind cords.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The kitchenette was accessible to the children in Junior Preschool playroom with items including a kettle, sharp knives and scissors were potentially accessible. A cover was missing from one of the radiator controls in the Junior Preschool playroom leaving a piece of pointed metal exposed posing a potential safety hazard. A child in the Junior Preschool Playroom was observed to eat whole grapes during the inspection. It is acknowledged that when this was brought to the attention of the staff the whole grapes were removed. <p>Infection Control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There was a distance of 4cm between two cots in the Baby sleep room posing a potential risk of cross infection between infants using these cots. There was black mould on the ceiling of the laundry room and a ceiling vent was very dusty. Stackable beds used by the children attending the Junior preschool playroom were stored in this area.
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>General Safety</p> <p>Indoors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Blind cords in the Baby, Toddler, Senior Preschool playrooms are now secured, immediate action was taken to ensure internal blinds were safe and fitted correctly. A new gate will be fitted to junior preschool kitchenette to prevent children from harm and hazards. This gate will comply with fire safety requirements, will be fitted correctly and will conform to the require safety standard. A new cover is fitted to the radiator controls in the Junior Preschool to prevent a potential safety hazard. An email is sent out to parents and staff informing them of possible choking hazards. All fruit must be quartered or halved. <p>Infection Control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cots in the Baby sleep room are now positioned 50cm apart to prevent cross infection between infants using these cots and to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. The laundry room will be cleaned, the ventilator will be cleaned, and the room will be painted. Beds will be removed from this area and placed in storage area in the lobby. <p>Supporting Evidence submitted:</p> <p>The service submitted the following evidence to the Early Years Inspectorate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An invoice for the fitting of a new safety gate to the kitchen. Photograph of the new radiator control cover. Copy of emails to parents and staff submitted. Photographic evidence of repositioning of cots in Baby room submitted. Photographs of the removal of the black mould, painting of the ceiling, cleaning of the vent and removal of the stackable beds from the laundry room.
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>An immediate action notice was issued by the Early Years Inspectorate to the service on the 10 November 2022 in relation to the unsecured blind cords. The service responded to</p>

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the Early Years Inspectorate by email on the 11 November 2022 with immediate actions taken to address this unmet registration requirement.

The actions taken submitted by the service to address the unmet requirements have been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate and deemed to have met the regulatory requirements.

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 service provided certification that adequate numbers of adults have undertaken the required first aid training to ensure that a person trained in first aid is immediately available to the children at all times.
- (2) (a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes are available in easily accessible positions in the playrooms
- (b) The first aid equipment is available at all times to the children attending the service.

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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Templates are available for the written recording of any fire drills that take place in the premises. A record of monthly fire drills undertaken in the service were maintained, the most recent dated 20 October 2022. (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 show that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms/fire detection system were serviced and tested on the 08 February 2022. <p>(4)</p> <p>Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed in conspicuous positions in the playrooms.</p>
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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>An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. 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:

- (a) No obvious defects were observed in the building structure.
- (b) The main entrance door at the front of the service to the downstairs playrooms was secured with a keypad and buzzer system to prevent unauthorised entry to the area and children from leaving unnoticed.
- (c)
 - Lighting:**
There is both natural light from windows and artificial lighting provided in the premises which is adequate and suitable for the provision of a childcare service. The light fittings light fittings in the playrooms and in the sanitary areas are encased with protective covers.
 - Heating:**
Oil fuel central heating is in place with heating provided from radiators.
 - Ventilation:**
The playrooms and sleep room are ventilated by openable windows. Sanitary units are ventilated by openable windows or mechanical ventilation systems.
- (d) The playrooms, sanitary areas and sleep room were clean and maintained in a satisfactory condition. Cleaning schedules were in place in the service.
- (e) Sanitary facilities were provided in the service as follows:
 - Adult sanitary accommodation**
Two sanitary units with one toilet and one wash hand basin were provided for the staff, one off the Baby playroom and a second off the main lobby area that was an accessible toilet with changing facility provision for wheelchair users. The inspectors were advised that a maximum of 16 staff in attendance at any one time use the facilities meeting the regulatory requirements of one unit with toilet and wash hand basin for each eight staff members.
 - Child sanitary accommodation**
Two sanitary units with one toilet and one wash hand basin are provided on the upstairs floor. One of these units also contains a nappy changing unit.

	<p>There are two toilets and two wash hand basins located off the Senior Preschool playroom. There is one nappy changing unit and one wash hand basin located off the Baby playroom.</p> <p>Liquid soap, paper hand towels are provided for hygienic hand washing and drying with foot pedal operated bins provided for the disposal of waste. The hot water temperatures of the taps in all the sanitary units' wash hand basins in the building were recorded below 43°C on the day of the inspection.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Numerous windows in the Toddler, Senior Preschool, Baby playroom, sleep room and upstairs lobby area were inadequately secured with the potential for children to leave the areas through the windows. 2. The access controlling device on the internal door leading into the upstairs playroom areas was found to be faulty during the inspection with the potential for a child to leave the area and exit the building via the stairs. The staff took immediate action to correct this and ensure that the door was secured. <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The children from the Junior Preschool playroom shared use of two sanitary units with one unit containing one wash hand basin and toilet and a second unit containing one nappy changing unit, wash hand basin and a toilet with up to 24 school aged children on the first floor. These sanitary facilities can accommodate a maximum of 22 children at any one time. 2. The sanitary accommodation for the children attending the Toddler playroom consists of two toilets in individual cubicles and two wash hand basins in a lobby where a pull-down changing system is located and this does not meet the toileting needs of the children when over 11 children requiring nappy changes are in attendance. The inspectors were advised that 19 children attending the Toddler playroom required nappy changes. The required ratio in relation to nappy changing units is 1 unit per each 11 children. The lobby was limited in space and the pull-down nappy change unit blocked access to the wash hand basins when in use. 3. An outdoor toilet had been installed in the outdoor area used by the Senior and Junior Preschool children for the children to use when playing outdoors. The water temperature in the wash hand basin of this unit was recorded at 10.5°C as on the day which was not warm enough to support effective handwashing. The air temperature of the unit was recorded at 12.4 °C. There was no liquid soap, paper towel or foot pedal operated bin in the unit.
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>(b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Windows and doors in the full centre have been resealed by a professional window and door company. Safety restriction latches have been fitted to all care rooms and the window upstairs in the lobby.

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	<p>2. An electrician visited the centre on 11-11-2022 and installed a new access controlling device at the top of the stairs leading out to the lobby.</p> <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New sanitary facilities will be fitted in the Afterschool homework area to provide separate sanitary facilities for school aged children. Adequate space is available. This work has not yet been completed as advised by the service on the 18 January 2023. 2. The sanitary area for the toddler care-room has been decluttered and the sanitary facilities have been reconfigured to provide adequate nappy changing facilities for 22 children. 3. The outdoor toilet is currently not in use. The designated person in charge has contacted a plumber and electrician to put an underground heating device to increase the temperature of the outdoor toilet. The plumber will connect an apparatus to the plumbing mechanism to increase the hot water to 37.c / 38.c so that it is safe for children using the facility. This work has not yet been completed as advised by the service on the 18 January 2023 and is not in use. <p>Evidence submitted by service:</p> <p>(b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence of the installation of restrictors to the windows. 2. Evidence of the new access controlling device at the top of the stairs leading out to the lobby. <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not yet completed. 2. Evidence of reconfigured sanitary facilities for the Toddler playroom were submitted by the service. 3. Not yet completed.
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>An immediate action notice was issued by the Early Years Inspectorate to the service on the 10 November 2022 in relation to (b)1. the inadequate restriction of the window openings in rooms. The service responded by email to the Early Years Inspectorate on the 11 November 2022 with details of the immediate actions taken in relation to this requirement not met.</p> <p>The actions taken by the service have been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate and (e) 1. & 3. will be reviewed on the next inspection. All other requirements of this regulation have been addressed.</p>

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:

- (1) Adequate clear floor space in the playrooms is provided for the proposed 78 children as follows:

Playroom name:	Clear floor space:
Baby playroom	43.615 square metres
Toddler playroom	56.65 square meters
Junior Preschool Playroom	71.7 square metres
Senior Preschool Playroom	73.475 square metres

- (2) The minimum amount of clear floor space for full day care services as specified under the regulation in respect of the ages range of children is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

Playroom	Age Range	Clear Floor space	Proposed number of children
Baby	0-1 year	3.5 square metres	12
	1-2 years	2.8 square metres	
Toddler	1-2 years	2.8 square metres	22
	2-3 years	2.35square metres	
Junior Preschool	2-3 years	2.35square metres	22
Senior Preschool	3-6 years	2.3 square metres	22

- (4) The minimum of 1.818 square metres is available for children in playrooms where sessional pre-school services and full day care service are to be contemporaneously provided.