

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2015MO125

Name of Service Tots 2 Teens

Address of Service: Tooreen, Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo, F35 YA33

Email Address: tots2teens.tooreen@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Elaine Tener

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

Proposed change:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in service type from sessional only to sessional and part-time service provision. Change in hours of operation.
Proposed Number of Children:	22 children (no change)
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Changes can be approved
Registered change:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in service type to sessional and part-time service provision. Change in hours of operation from 08:45 - 12:15 to 09:00 – 14:00

Date of Inspection:	2	7	0	4	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: M Farrell
Title: Early Years Inspectorate

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: TUSLA, Child and Family Agency,
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 Part Time / Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	23 rd May 2023

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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	Tots 2 Teens is a community-based childcare service located in a rural area in the village of Tooreen, Co Mayo and is run by a voluntary committee. The service is registered to provide services for children aged from 2-6 years of age and offers a morning session from 08:45-12:15midday. A registered school age service is also provided.
Premises	The service is located in a dedicated section at the rear of a local community centre building. The pre-school service was an extension to the building and has two large playrooms, one of which is used for preschool children and the second used to provide school aged services, an office, kitchen, storerooms, lobby space and sanitary facilities. An enclosed outdoor play area is provided to the rear and side of the preschool premises.
Staffing	There are two staff employed to care directly for the children in the service. The registered provider is available to provide cover in the service when needed.
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 person in charge and staff 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.

(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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) It is proposed that initially two adults will work with the children availing of part-time care in the service and maintain the adult: child ratios of;

- 1:6 for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age and
- 1: 8 for children aged from 3 to 6 years of age.

The service proposes that as numbers increase, staff will be recruited to accommodate up to 22 part-time children in the service.

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:

(1) (a)

The requirement has been met.

There is one large playroom with two distinct areas that are used by the preschool children. One area of the playroom is known as the messy playroom and has a sand table with utensils, water play area with low level sink unit, art and craft supplies and a nature table area.

There is a wide-ranging choice of toys and play equipment displayed in the main playroom at low levels in open accessible storage to facilitate a child-led learning environment. The playroom is well equipped with suitable toys and play equipment for the maximum of 22 parttime children proposed to attend. Additional toys stored in a storage room located off the playroom are available to be rotated depending on children’s emergent interests. The main playroom is laid out in defined labelled interest areas including a home corner, shop area, construction area, transport toys and small world play area. A book corner with age-appropriate books is positioned near the rest area. Numerous tabletop activities are provided including jig-saw puzzles, threading and linking activities. Age-appropriate tables and adequate numbers of chairs are provided for the proposed numbers of children to facilitate snack time, tabletop activities and group work. Adult sized chairs are also available.

(b) The service proposes to provide part-time service for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. Sleep mats with washable covers proposed to be laundered in the service are provided. There is a rest area with wipeable soft furnishings where children can sit and rest.

(3) (a)

The requirement has been met.

A securely enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear and side of the building is directly accessible from the playroom. The area has a grass hillock that has been developed with inclined climbing areas and a slide. The outdoor area also has ground coverings of tarmacadam, cement and blue impact absorbent ground cover on which outdoor climbing systems and slides are positioned. Sound walls and activity boards are fixed to the perimeter fencing. There is a wooden playhouse with items including a play kitchen, child sized table and chairs. A storage shed is provided to store play equipment including ride on toys and hula hoops for physical activity. There is wooden bench seating and planting boxes are in one area for children and adults to grow flowers and vegetables.

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.

- It is proposed that healthy snacks in line with the service’s healthy eating policy are to be provided from home for the children attending sessional services.
- The service proposes to provide a healthy cold meal for children attending part-time service with information of the contents to be provided to the children’s parents/guardians.
- The person in charge advised the inspector that drinking water is to be always available to the children 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:

The requirement has been partially met.

General Safety

- The entrance doors have securing mechanisms in place to prevent children from leaving the service unnoticed and people from entering without authorisation.
- Cleaning products are stored in a room off the kitchen and inaccessible to children.
- The emergency exit routes are free from obstruction.
- The toys and play equipment are age-appropriate, clean and in good condition.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to the children.
- There is safe storage for medication if required in a secured store area off the playroom.
- Visibility makers are in place on glass door and windows to reduce risk of injury to a child.

Infection control:

- Refrigerators are provided in the service for the storage of perishable food items.
- Aprons and gloves are provided for use as needed.
- The outdoor waste storage bins are inaccessible to children in the service.
- Cleaning schedules and checklists are in place for appropriate areas in the service.
- A supply of drinking water is provided in the service.
- Foot pedal operated bins are provided for the disposal of waste.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Requirement not met:	<p>Infection Control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas of a grab bar handrail in the ability accessible toilet are very rusty posing difficulties cleaning and a potential infection control risk. 2. Rodent boxes are located in unsecured low cupboards under the sinks in the water area of the messy playroom and are potentially accessible to children.
Response from Provider:	<p>The service advised in a written response that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The grab rail was replaced with a new grab rail. 2. Child locks have been placed on the doors of the cupboards to prevent the children accessing the rodent boxes. <p>Photographic evidence of the actions taken was submitted by the service to the Early Years Inspectorate on the 12 May 2023.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirements have now been met.

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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Evidence of the completion of first aid training (FAR) for children was available for two staff in the service with expiry dates of the 9 May 2023. (2) (a) There is a suitably labelled equipped first aid bag conspicuously stored on a high shelf in the messy playroom area. (b) The first aid equipment is proposed to be always available to children attending the service.
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) Copies of the templates for the recording of all monthly fire drills to take place on the premises are available in the service.
 - (b) A record is available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The firefighting equipment was last serviced on the 18 April 2023 and the fire detection and alarm system was last maintained on the 28 October 2022.
- (4) Detailed notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed in the entrance hall/lobby area.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The service provided evidence from their insurance company stating that adequate insurance for part-time service was already in place. The service's insurance certificate stated that cover for a maximum of 50 children was in place until the 27 March 2024.

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 to the lobby area at the front of the service is securable and has a bell system to prevent unauthorised entry to the area. A keycode securing mechanism positioned at a high level is in place on the internal door from the lobby to the playroom to prevent children from leaving the playroom unnoticed. There are securing mechanisms in place on the other internal doors leading to storerooms and the adult sanitary accommodation. The gates in the enclosed outdoor area have securing mechanisms to prevent unauthorised access and children from leaving the area unnoticed.
- (c) **Lighting:**
 There is 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 in the play areas and in the sanitary areas have protective covers.

Heating:
 The heating is provided by oil fuelled central heating with radiators that have protective cage coverings on them. The playroom air temperature and sanitary area temperatures were recorded between 18-22°C as required.

Ventilation:
 There are openable windows some with trickle vents in the playroom to allow ventilation of the room. The children’s sanitary units have openable windows to ventilate these spaces.
- (d) There are cleaning schedules and cleaning recording templates in place for all areas of the service. The playroom and sanitary areas are clean and the equipment is in good condition.
- (e) Sanitary facilities were provided in the service as follows:
Child sanitary accommodation
 Two sanitary units with one toilet and one wash hand basin each are provided off the playroom. Nappy changing facilities are provided with a nappy changing table

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

in one of the units. Warm water recorded below 43°C, liquid soap, paper towels and foot pedal bins are provided in the sanitary units for handwashing and drying purposes.

Adult sanitary accommodation

Adult sanitary accommodation with one toilet and handwashing facilities is provided.

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:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) There is adequate clear floor space in the playroom and messy playroom measured a total of 107.86 square metres which can readily accommodate the proposed maximum of 22 children attending sessional or part-time services.
- (2) The clear floor space can accommodate a maximum of 22 children aged between 3 and 6 years attending full day care/part-time services.
- (3) The minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear space is available in the playroom for the proposed 22 children to attend sessional services when sessional and part-time services are contemporaneously provided in playroom.