

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015OY029

**Name of Service** Rhode Community Pre-School Ltd

**Address of Service:** Rhode Community Centre, Rhode, Co. Offaly

**Email Address:** rhodecommunitypreschool@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Ashling Harte

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

**Proposed change:** Addition of a Session from Morning to Morning and Afternoon  
Hours of Operation for Additional Session = 12:20 -15:20

**Proposed Number of Children:** 44 (changed to 42 on inspection)

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Addition of afternoon session, 42 children to be accommodated in the service at any one time

**Registered change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 44 to 42  
Addition of a Session from Morning to Morning and Afternoon Session  
Hours of Operation for Additional Session = 12:20 -15:20

**Date of Inspection:** 2 4 0 8 2 0 2 3

**Inspection undertaken by:** C. O' Connor Hughes

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Sessional Service for 42 Children

**Date of Registration** 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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## 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The age range of children currently enrolled in the service is 2 to 6 years.</p> <p>The service operates between the hours of 09:00 to 12:00 on a Monday to Friday basis and currently accommodates 44 children.</p> <p>The service proposes to operate an additional session from 12:20 to 15:20 in pre-school room 1.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The early years service is located in Rhode Community Centre. Two pre-school rooms are provided. Pre-school room 1 is in the main building consisting of an office and sanitary accommodation. Pre-school room 2 is located in the community hall. A kitchen, storage room and sanitary accommodation is provided.</p> <p>An outdoor play area is attached to the side of the premises. Onsite parking and set down facilities are available in the car park at the back of the service.</p> <p>The service is situated on the outskirts of the village of Rhode, County Offaly.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>Seven staff are to be employed in the service including the registered provider.</p>
<b>Methodology</b>	<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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<p>The inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.</p>

# 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 was met.

(1)(a)

The pre-school service has a named designated person in charge and deputy person in charge.

### 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 was met.

(1)

Seven adults including the registered provider employed in the service will work with the forty-two children to ensure the correct adult:child ratio is maintained at all times.

### 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.

(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

**Requirement met:**

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)

Adequate and suitable play facilities were available for children. Numerous interest areas included a home area, construction, dress up, farm and a dolls house. Low level tables and chairs were noted in the pre-school rooms with materials accessible to

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

children on low level shelving. The registered provider stated extra toys and equipment were available and would be rotated for children's use throughout the pre-school term.

(1)(b)

A suitable rest facility was available for children to rest and relax in the pre-school rooms.

(4)

The outdoor play area was safe and secure surrounded by a high wall and gates. Age and stage appropriate toys and equipment were available that included sand play, a mud kitchen, basketball hoops and scooters. A large climbing frame with slide and swings were noted on an absorbent surface.

### 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 was met.

The registered provider stated the parents will provide sufficient and healthy snacks for the proposed children attending the service.

A fridge is available for the storage of perishable goods in the pre-school rooms.

A healthy eating policy was available 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 was met.

The emergency exit doors are unobstructed from the preschool rooms.

A fire assembly point is in place to the front of the service.

Keys to the main doors are secure and out of reach of children.

Medication is stored in the main office inaccessible to children.

Refuse bins are inaccessible to children.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 25 – First Aid

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—
- (a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
  - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)

The registered provider and two staff members are qualified in first aid response (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

First aid boxes are located in a conspicuous position in the pre-school rooms and in the office.

(b)

A first aid box is available to children in 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 firefighting 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 was met.

(1)(a)

A fire register is available for monthly fire drills to be conducted in the pre-school service.

(b)

Maintenance records were available for the smoke alarms and firefighting equipment dated 23 June 2023.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection with an expiry date of 27 March 2024. 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.

### 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 was met.

(a)

The premises visually appeared to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

The main entrance is secure to ensure the children’s safety within the service.

(c)

An oil-fired central heating system is the source of the heating for the premises. A service record was available and dated 25 October 2022. Thermostatically controlled radiators are in place in both pre-school rooms.

The environmental temperature was recorded at 19 -20 degrees Celsius in the pre-school rooms.

Natural lighting is available through large windows and supplemented with artificial lighting in the pre-school rooms.

Windows are openable in the pre-school rooms and in the sanitary accommodation to allow for natural ventilation with the exception of the staff toilet.

The service is connected to the public water supply and drainage system .

(d)

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>The floors and the walls are in a good state of repair and maintenance in pre-school room 1. A cleaning schedule was available for the service.</p> <p>A contractor for the collection of refuse bins has been engaged by the service to collect refuse from the premises on a scheduled basis.</p> <p>Pest control records noted the last inspection was dated the 6 June 2023.</p> <p>(e) Four toilets and four wash hand basins are available in the sanitary accommodation for pre-school room 1 and pre-school room 2. A nappy changing unit is available in the sanitary accommodation off pre-school room 1. The temperature recorded at the wash hand basin was 42.5 degrees Celsius. A staff toilet and a wash hand basin are available for use by staff members in the community hall.</p>
<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p>The requirement was not met.</p> <p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The sanitary accommodation in the community hall required cleaning as cobwebs and flies were noted.</li> <li>2. The walls in the pre-school room 2 in the community hall required painting.</li> <li>3. The taps in the boy's toilet in the community hall required replacing as there was a build-up of mildew and limescale on both taps.</li> </ol> <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The mechanical ventilation was not working in the staff toilet in the community hall and required repair.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>The registered provider provided the following response:</p> <p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The sanitary accommodation in the community hall has been cleaned with daily cleaning rotas in operation. (Photograph included)</li> <li>2. The walls in the pre-school room 2 have been filled and painted. (Photograph included)</li> <li>3. The taps in the boy's toilet in the community hall have been replaced. (Photograph included)</li> </ol> <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New vents were fitted in all three bathrooms. (Receipt included)</li> </ol>

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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<b>Summary Comment:</b>	In respect of actions taken by the service photographic and documentary evidence was submitted to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate, reviewed by the Early Years Inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.
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### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space was available to provide the children with an environment to work, play and move freely on a sessional basis.</p> <p>(3) The recorded measurements indicated there is adequate space at 1.818 m<sup>2</sup> for forty-two children to attend the service.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="485 1240 1503 1420"> <thead> <tr> <th>Preschool room 1</th> <th>Preschool room 2 in the Community hall</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>36.1m<sup>2</sup></td> <td>65.69m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Registered Provider agreed with the measurements for 42 children to be accommodated within the service at any one time.</p>		Preschool room 1	Preschool room 2 in the Community hall	36.1m <sup>2</sup>	65.69m <sup>2</sup>
Preschool room 1	Preschool room 2 in the Community hall					
36.1m <sup>2</sup>	65.69m <sup>2</sup>					