

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015OY036

**Name of Service** Childs Play Pre-School & After School

**Address of Service:** Brocca Road, Mucklagh, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 W568

**Email Address:** childisplaymucklagh@hotmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Aisling Gallagher

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

**Proposed change:** Change in the number of children to 37

**Proposed Number of Children:** To increase the number of preschool children to be accommodated in preschool room no 2, from 12 to 16 on a sessional basis for no more than three and a half hours duration.  
To increase the number of preschool children to be accommodated in the service at any one time on a sessional basis from 33 to 37.

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Approve all changes

**Registered change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 33 to 37

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	1	0	7	2	0	2	3
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**Inspection undertaken by:** D. Molloy

**Title:** Early Years Inspector.

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Sessional Service for 37 Children

**Date of Registration** 28<sup>th</sup> July 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Childs Play Pre-School & After School operates from an extension to the domestic dwelling of the registered provider in the village Mucklagh, in rural Co. Offaly. This service has been in operation since 1996. The service caters for children aged 2 to 6 years. The service operates 2 sessions per day from 9am to 12pm and from 12.15pm to 3.15pm. The service is operated by the registered provider.
<b>Premises</b>	Childs Play Pre-School & After School provides both indoor and outdoor facilities. The service consists of two indoor playrooms, the large playroom (preschool room 1) and the small playroom (preschool room 2), a reception area and cloakroom area. Preschool room 1 utilizes an open plan design and opens on to preschool room 2 where it is proposed to increase the number of children to be accommodated on a sessional basis going forward. The main entrance opens into the preschool room number 1. Four toilets and four wash hand basins are provided for children's use and there also is a toilet and wash hand basin for staff use. The premises is used for the sole purpose of operating an early years' service. The outdoor facility includes a large circular roofed pergola in addition to a roofed outdoor play space and a sensory area.
<b>Staffing</b>	All staff including the registered provider work directly with the preschool children and have qualifications ranging from level 6 to level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework for Early Years.
<b>Methodology</b>	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. The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with the registered provider 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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who facilitated 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)

The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

### 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(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.

#### Requirement met:

(1)

This requirement has been met.

The required adult child ratio of 1 adult to 11 preschool children attending on a sessional basis was proposed. It is proposed that four adults will be working in the service throughout the opening hours.

(8)

(c) It is proposed that the registered provider will operate the service with additional staff .

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*

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) The service was equipped with adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and outdoors while in the service.

A wide range, good quality toys and equipment was provided both indoors and outdoors. The playrooms were arranged in a child centred manner including particular areas of interest and rest area in both rooms. A varied selection of developmentally and age-appropriate toys and equipment are fully accessible to the children from low level shelving. A choice of different toys and equipment including arts and crafts materials, table top equipment, dolls and buggies, dressing up clothes, books in a library area, farm toys and play equipment. The playrooms also provided a construction area, home corner and messy play area, Child sized furniture including low level tables and chairs are provided .

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	<p>The proposed outdoor facility is equipped with a good selection of outdoor toys and equipment including outdoor kitchens, climbing equipment, bikes and trike's and push along push along toys.</p> <p>(b) Adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day. A cosy rest area is provided in each room supplied with soft seating, soft floor mats and cushions.</p> <p>(3)</p> <p>(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 to the side of the premises. Access could be gained to the play area from both the playrooms. A fence and a wall secure the boundaries of the play area, and the gate is secured from within. Access to the domestic dwelling is restricted.</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:

This requirement has been met.

It is proposed that children bring in their own lunches from home in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. A new upstanding fridge is available in which to store lunches prior to consumption.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

The following measures were noted on the day of the inspection to safeguard the children’s health, safety, and welfare and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.

#### Infection Control.

- Cleaning schedules and a cleaning rota were maintained and were open for inspection.
- An infection control policy was available.
- The hand basins were supplied with a constant supply of hot and cold water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bins was provided in each sanitary accommodation and in the nappy changing area.
- A storeroom provided a suitable location for storage of toys and art and craft materials that were not in use.
- A pest control system is in place in the service.
- Refuse bins were stored away and were collected by a refuse collector.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

Adults qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) will be available on the premises each day.

(2)(a)(b)

A fully equipped first aid box is available in an accessible and conspicuous location 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 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A recording system showed a record of fire drills conducted in the service and it was noted that the last monthly fire drill was recorded in June 2023, and it is proposed

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that a fire evacuation drill will be carried out in September 2023 when the service reopens for the new term and monthly thereafter.

(b) The maintenance record for firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service indicated that an annual service was conducted in June 2023.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was wall mounted in the playrooms.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider ensured that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. Evidence was available demonstrating that insurance cover could be extended to cover proposed increase in children attending. Insurance cover was valid to April 2024.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

(a) All internal walls and ceilings were brightly painted with no evidence of dampness or mould growth visible. All internal windows and glass panel doors leading to outside of the service appeared to be both water tight and weather tight when closed.

(b) All site boundaries were secure.

(c) The setting was well lit with a combination of natural and artificial light.

The light fittings throughout the premises were covered with shatterproof diffusers.

The service was heated by oil radiators were thermostatically controlled.

Openable windows were provided in all rooms in the service and an air filtration system was in place.

(d) The service was clean and well maintained. Cleaning schedules and cleaning roster were on display for each room in the service which documented what would be cleaned and the staff member with responsibility for conducting the cleaning.

The service was well maintained in a proper state of repair, the floor covering throughout the rooms in the service in good condition and was clean. A washing machine and dryer were provided .

(e) Four toilets and four wash hand basins are provided for children uses and an additional toilet is available for staff use.

All wash hand basins in the service were provided with thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bins.

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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.

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

Sufficient floor space will be available in order to accommodate the proposed increase in the number of preschool children in preschool room number 2 attending the service on a sessional basis.

Room name	Number of children.	Age range	Type of service	Space available	Space required
Preschool Room 2	16	3 years to 6 years.	Sessional	The amount of total free space available 33.107m <sup>2</sup>	To accommodate 16 preschool children in sessional care the space requirement is 29.088m <sup>2</sup>

(3) Adequate floor space is available for children to be cared for on a sessional basis.