

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015OY043

**Name of Service** Clever Clogs

**Address of Service:** Laughaun, Dunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly, E53 DT32

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Mary Bolger

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

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Change in Number of Children that can be Accommodated to 32 children (new extension to the premises) Change in Service Type to Full Day Care. Change in hours of operation
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	32
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	Approve all changes fully
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 22 to 32 Change in Service Type from Part Time to Full Day Care Change in Hours of Operation from 08:00 – 13:00 to 08:00 – 18:00

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	9	1	1	2	0	2	3
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**Inspection undertaken by:** K. Murphy  
**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**

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care Service for 32 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> December 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).

<p><b>Description of Service</b></p>	<p>Clever Clogs Early Years Service is currently registered as a part time service with a capacity for twenty-two children aged between 2 – 6 years. The service currently operates between the hours of 09:00 and 13:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. A school age childcare service operates in the afternoon. The service is part of a multiple service operated by an independent provider.</p> <p>A change of circumstances was submitted by the registered provider to the Tusla registration office seeking to increase capacity from 22 to 32 children aged between 2 and 6 years on various sessional, part-time and full day care allocations and to change the service type to include full day care and to extend the hours of operation to 08:00 – 18:00.</p>
<p><b>Premises</b></p>	<p>The Early Years’ Service is located in a single storey purpose-built premises. One pre-school room and a kitchenette are currently provided. An outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the premises. Onsite parking and set down facilities are available. The service is rural in its location near the village of Dunkerrin, County Offaly.</p> <p>Under the current registration the original facility was operational. An extension to the premises has recently taken place to provide an additional pre-school room and sanitary accommodation. The service is proposing to accommodate additional children for which the service is seeking registration within the new extension.</p>
<p><b>Staffing</b></p>	<p>On November 29<sup>th</sup> 2023, the registered provider and the designated person in charge facilitated the inspection.</p>
<p><b>Methodology</b></p>	<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>

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	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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the registered provider and the person in charge who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff	
<b>Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment</b>	
<i>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—</i> <i>(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.  (1)(a)  The pre-school service has a named designated person in charge with other named staff members who are able to deputise as required.

Part III - Management and Staff	
<b>Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels</b>	
<i>(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.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.  (1)  An adequate number of adults will work directly with the children. Provision is in place to meet the necessary adult to child ratios for children proposing to attend on various sessional, part time and full day care allocations.

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### 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*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Suitable and adequate play and work equipment are provided indoors and outdoors which incorporate areas with toys and equipment for arts and crafts, home corners, interest areas, sensory and tabletop activities.

(b)

Soft furnishings provide suitable and adequate rest facilities in the service. Low level beds are in place to accommodate the sleep needs of children aged 2-3 years.

(3)(a)(b)

An outdoor area is attached to the rear of the service which can be accessed directly via a door from the main pre-school room. A high-level concrete wall secures the perimeter of the designated outdoor play area. A variety of bikes, trikes and outdoor toys are available.

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## 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.

A kitchen is located in a separate premises adjacent to the pre-school service and a kitchenette is located in the pre-school premises.

A chef is employed to prepare meals for children proposing to attend on a full day care basis. During term time parents provide the snacks for children attending on a sessional basis. Refrigerated storage facilities are available. A menu plan is in place detailing the various types of snacks and meals to be provided to children proposing to attend on a part time and full day care basis.

### 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 met.

Unauthorized access to the service and unsupervised exit of children from the service is controlled by parents taking children to the designated entrance of the service for the pre-school service. The two front doors are secured. Fire safe restrictive opening devices are in place on all windows. A designated fire assembly point is located to the side of the premises.

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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)

Evidence was available which confirmed that the staff working in the service had completed First Aid Response (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

First aid boxes stocked with sufficient supplies for the number of children to attend were located in prominent locations out of the reach of children.

### 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 has been met.

(1)(a)

A record of the monthly fire drills conducted in the pre-school service was available. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on 24 November 2023.

(b)

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	<p>Maintenance records were available for the annual service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises in accordance with the maintenance schedule set down. The service records were dated 13 September 2023 for both the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>A notice of the procedure to be following in the event of a fire was displayed in various locations throughout the premises.</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:

**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.**

### 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 met.

- (a)  
The main premises are in existence for a number of years and the recent extension to the premises visually appears to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b)  
The entrances to the service were secure. The main entrance door is secured with a key located out of the reach of children.
- (c)  
Openable windows provide both natural light and ventilation throughout the service. Wall vents are provided in all rooms. The light fittings were covered and fully operational to provide adequate artificial light to the existing pre-school room, the new pre-school room and the sanitary accommodation. High level wall mounted thermostatically controlled radiators are in place in the new pre-school room. In the proposed occupied areas, an environmental temperature of approximately 19 degrees Celsius was recorded. Wastewater and sewage are removed from the premises by means of the public wastewater treatment system. Potable drinking water is supplied to the premises by means of a public water supply.
- (d)  
The floors and walls were in a good state of repair and maintenance. A cleaning schedule was available for the service and records were in place. The pest control system in place was reviewed by the contractor on 23 November 2023. Waste and refuse are removed daily to externally located closed bins. A contractor for the collection of refuse bins has been engaged by the service to collect refuse from the premises on a scheduled basis.
- (e)  
In respect of the proposed change in the number of children that can be accommodated two water closets and one wash hand basin have been provided in newly constructed sanitary accommodation located off the new pre-school room.

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	<p>The new sanitary accommodation area is ventilated by means of mechanical ventilation and natural ventilation in the form of openable windows. A wall mounted nappy changing unit is in place if required.</p> <p>All wash hand basins are plumbed with an instantaneous supply of hot and cold water. Thermostatically controlled water was noted at 30 degrees Celsius.</p> <p>In separate sanitary facilities, one water closet and wash hand basin are currently designated for staff use. All sanitary accommodation was stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towel.</p>
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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.*
- (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.*
- (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.*
- (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).*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>Adequate floor space for the work, play and movement of children proposing to attend is available.</p> <p>(2)</p>
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The new pre-school room with an area of approximately 28 m<sup>2</sup> in line with the floor plans submitted ensures that the minimum amount of clear floor space in respect of the proposed age range for an increased number from 22 to 32 children to attend on various sessional, part time and full day care allocations.

(4)(a)(b)

As part of the proposed registered capacity, in a contemporaneous situation a minimum of 1.818 square metres is available with the addition of the new pre-school room for up to 32 children proposing to attend on a sessional, part time and full day care basis is available.