

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015RN006

**Name of Service:** Cam Childcare Ltd

**Address of Service:** Cam, Brideswell, Athlone, Co Roscommon.

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Ms. Karen Grehan

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

**Proposed change:** Increase the maximum number of children attending the service at any one time from 22 to 33.  
Number of staff working with the children from 3 to 4.  
Change in current operating hours of 9.00hrs to 12.00hrs to 8.30hrs to 12.00hrs.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 33

**Registered change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 22 to 33

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

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Clinical & Administration Building,  
Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor),  
Merlin Park, Galway.

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Sessional Service for 33 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> August 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>	Cam Childcare Ltd. operates from a purpose-built premises. The premises is within a close proximity to the village of Brideswell, Co. Roscommon. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme and sessional care programme is proposed to be offered from 8.30hrs to 12.00hrs, Monday to Friday. The pre-school proposes to cater for children aged between 2 years and 8 months to 6 years. The pre-school proposes to have a maximum number of 33 children attending the service at any one time. A child led play-based curriculum focusing on emerging interests is proposed to be provided.
<b>Premises</b>	The pre-school will consist of two playrooms namely the Senior room and the Junior room. The Senior room has an adjacent dining room. The Junior room is a newly renovated room and the reason for this fit for purpose inspection. There is a designated kitchen and kitchenette in the premises. The pre-school children have access to a designated secure outdoor play area to the rear of the premises for play activities and exploration.
<b>Staffing</b>	It is proposed that the registered provider will act as childcare relief and will not be in the premises, on a daily basis. There is a proposed designated person in charge and a deputy designated person in charge. It is proposed that there will be four staff including the registered provider, that hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education. It is proposed there will be an additional adult on an employment scheme / childcare work placement, who will be supervised by the staff when interacting with the children.
<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 two themes: Governance, and Safety.  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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a

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	decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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 early years inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, and deputy person in charge who were present on the day of the inspection.

### 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.

There was a proposed designated person in charge and a proposed named person available to deputise in the service.

### 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:

The requirement was met.

(1)

It is proposed that there will be an adequate number of staff working directly with the pre-school children.

It is proposed that there will be a maximum of 33 children at any one time, between the two playrooms.

It is proposed that there will be four staff including the registered provider, who hold at hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

It is proposed there will be an additional adult on employment schemes / childcare work placement, who will be supervised by the staff when interacting with the children.

(8)(c)

It is proposed that the registered provider will not operate the service single-handedly.

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:	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The design, organisation and resourcing of the new Junior room environment would be able to support each child’s wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service.</p> <p>The Junior playroom was designed and arranged to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter,</li> <li>divided into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support proposed children’s play, development, and learning,</li> <li>give all proposed children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development.</li> </ul> <p>The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was thereby would be readily accessible to the proposed pre-school children.</p> <p>The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, they were designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.</p>
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Materials and items of interest in the Junior room, included a shop with a register, calculator, real world items and a telephone. There was a kitchen with a toaster, kettle, teapots, cups, plates, trays, pans, food items, containers, pizza, tins, and egg cartons. There was a mirror and beauty items. There was a mark making area with copybooks, paper, markers, and pencils. There were easels, paper, paints, paint brushes, glue, bibs, scissors, crayons, cardboard, and art trays. There was a selection of cones, leaves, and stones. There were bricks with mats, blocks, trains, and farm / zoo animals. There were links, pins, insets, puzzles, threading materials, reels, and counters. There was a house with small world items and little people.

Displayed on the walls were posters and visual aids including counting with animals and the curriculum.

(1)(b)

A rest / quiet area was provided in the Junior room in the form of child size seating, mats, cushions, and blankets to facilitate a proposed child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to.

(3)(a)

Outdoor areas

The person in charge advised that the outdoor areas would be an extension of the indoor environment and linked with the learning that goes on inside. The two playrooms had direct access to the outdoor play areas. The person in charge advised that the children would have the opportunity to be outside as often as possible, in all weather conditions. Equipment and materials observed in the outdoor play areas supported children’s play, movement and exploration and provided opportunities exclusive to the outdoors. The outdoor areas to the side and rear of the premises were surrounded by fencing and gates. The areas were covered with tarmacadam, impact absorbing surface and real grass.

There was an all-weather lean too canopy sheltered area with a kitchen with a real-world oven, pots, pans, and utensils. There was a hot / cold tap in an outdoor sink. There were two mud kitchens and a wooden shop. There was a wooden activity centre, tyres, slides,

a sand pit, water / sand basins and tree trucks. There was a grass mount, a willow tunnel, a selection of trees and bird feeders. There were raised beds for vegetables, herbs, and plants. There was also a selection of planters and pots. There were mounted blackboards and ornamental decorations. There were additional play items in a secure steel shed which staff advised were rotated on a theme / seasonal basis. There was also a wellington storage box.

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.

**General Safety**

- There was a buzzer access system into the main entrance front door.
- The staff only areas, kitchen, kitchenette, storage / utility rooms were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- The external play area was secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance would be kept for the children that will be attending the pre-school.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted and secured to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- The underfloor heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hygienic hand washing without risk of scalding the children was and would be available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- Windows were fitted with restrictive access devices / safety systems.

- There were visibility stickers on the glass doors as a safety precaution.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There was a documented risk assessment system for the indoor and outdoor play areas.
- The service had a risk assessment system for checking that toys and equipment were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.
- The person in charge clearly identified to the early years' inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.
- There were no pits or ponds in the outdoor area to cause any risk of danger to proposed pre-school children.

**Infection Control**

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The person in charge advised that the outdoor play equipment would be cleaned prior to/ after a child's use, with documented records maintained.
- A refrigerator was provided in the kitchen and in the kitchenette for the storage of perishable foods.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows and doors left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

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|  | <p>(1) Two staff who will be working in the pre-school service have a current paediatric first aid qualification. A third staff member is booked for first aid training in August 2023.</p> <p>(2)(a) Suitably equipped first aid bags were stored in each of the two playrooms and thereby in an easily accessible conspicuous position.</p> <p>(b) The first aid bags were readily available, with content items within date.</p> |
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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 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) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills.
- (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file.
- Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2022.
- Records indicated that the last annual maintenance certificate for the smoke and fire detection system was dated September 2022.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed at the entrance to each pre-school room.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service's insurance with an expiry date 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 was for a sessional service for 33 children and included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,

- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

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) From a visual inspection the premises were of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The indoor and outdoor play areas were safe and secure.
- (c) There was natural lighting in the proposed Junior room with windows / a door on one outer wall.  
  
The proposed Junior room was well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors.  
  
The artificial lighting provided was shatter proof.  
  
The underfloor heating system had a thermostatically controlled thermostat to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C.  
  
On the day of inspection, the proposed Junior room temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.  
  
The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature of 35°C and the person in charge advised it would be no greater than 43°C.
- (d) In the proposed Junior room, play, and work equipment was clean and in good repair.  
  
Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from the proposed Junior room in a designated secured storage utility area and on high shelves.  
  
From observation, the furnished Junior room was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.

	<p>The proposed Junior room had two designated children’s toilets with two designated children’s wash hand basins.</p> <p>There was a wall mounted nappy changing table and an airtight sealable bin for the storage of nappies.</p> <p>There were three designated adult toilets with designated wash hand basins in the premises.</p> <p>Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in designated dispensers were within easy access to a pre-school child.</p> <p>Foot pedal lidded bins were provided in the sanitary area.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed new Junior room for the free movement of children to work and play.</li> <li>(3) The proposed registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children.</li> <li>(4) The floor space measurement of the proposed new Junior room was 17.8 square meters thus, ensuring a minimum of 1.81 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service. These measurements indicate that the Junior room can accommodate a maximum of 19 pre- school children on a sessional basis.</li> </ul>
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