

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015RN018

Name of Service: Frenchpark and Districts Childcare CLG

Address of Service: Corskeagh Estate, Corskeagh, Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon

Email Address: info@fdcl.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Sinead Devine

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

Proposed change: 22 children in the Full Day Care room which previously had a maximum of 20 children, for a total of 84 children in service

Proposed Number of Children: 84

Recommended Change Following Inspection: From 20 children to 22 children in the Full Day Care room

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 82 to 84

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| Date of Inspection: | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
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Inspection undertaken by: A. Kennedy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status: Registered Full Day Care Service for 84 Children

Date of Registration: 2nd January 2024



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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).

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| Description of Service | <p>The service offers full day care and part time care provision from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs, for children aged between 0 to 6 years, from Monday to Friday. Additionally, an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes and sessional care programmes is offered. The service also operates a breakfast club and afterschool programme for school aged children.</p> |
| Premises | <p>The service currently caters for a maximum number of 82 children, at any one time. There are six playrooms, the Baby room, the Toddler room, the Full day care room, the Sessional am / pm room, the Lunchroom are on the ground floor, while the Highscope room is on the first floor. It is acknowledged on the day of inspection; the Baby room was not in use and the Lunchroom was solely used for the school aged children. There is a designated kitchen where the main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There are outdoor play areas to the sides of the premises. The registered provider is proposing to increase the number of children to attend the Full day care room from 20 to 22 children.</p> |
| Staffing | <p>The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises daily. There is a named person in charge and a deputy person in charge. It is proposed that three to four adults would be caring for the children in the Full day care room on a daily basis. These staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. There is a designated business manager, an acting manager and a cleaner. There are four staff designated to kitchen duties who prepare, cook, and serve the service meals / snacks. Additionally, there are two staff designated solely to the care of the school aged children.</p> |
| 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> |

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| | <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 | <p>The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the business manager, acting manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p> |

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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 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)—

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) It was advised by the acting manager that there would be a minimum of two adults employed daily to care for the children in the Full day care room.

(8)(a) There are two adults on the premises at all times during the hours of operation.

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.

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

(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

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| <p>Requirement met:</p> | <p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The design, organisation, and resourcing of the full day care room and the outdoor environment would be able to support each child’s wellbeing, learning, and development.</p> <p>The indoor pre-school room was designed and arranged to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter, • divided into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support proposed children’s play, development, and learning, • give all proposed children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development. <p>The Full Day Care room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was thereby readily accessible to the proposed pre-school children. • The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, and designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking. • Play materials and equipment were developmentally appropriate. There were art and craft materials including a wall mounted easel, crayons, pencils, paper, and paints. There were problem solving items including, insets, and puzzles. There were sand and water basins with utensils. There were role playing areas including a kitchen with utensils, dolls, doll accessories, prams, and highchairs for dolls. There were construction and stacking materials including links, connectors, buttons, wooden shapes, magnets, threading materials, and blocks. There were books, transport vehicles, and a house with small world items. <p>(1)(b) A rest / quiet area was provided in the full day care room, in the form of a soft seating to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to.</p> <p>There was a stackable bed available in the pre-school room for any child attending the full day care / part time service requiring sleep provision.</p> <p>(3)(a)</p> |
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The outdoor area

- The outdoor area was covered with tarmacadam, impact absorbing matting and surrounded by fencing and a concrete wall. There was an all-weather sheltered area and a storage shed. There was adequate equipment for children’s learning and development including a picnic bench, a playhouse, a climbing frame with a slide and a playhouse and monkey bars. There were scooters, bicycles, rockers, and transport vehicles. There were tables, chairs, and a mud kitchen. There were a selection of rackets, balls, and a swing ball.
- The manager advised that the outdoor area was an extension of the indoor environment and linked with the learning that goes on inside.
- The manager advised that the children in the full day care room, would have the opportunity to be outside as often as possible, in all weather conditions.
- Additional outdoor play equipment was stored in a storage shed.

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.

- There was a healthy eating policy. The person in charge advised that healthy eating was promoted within the service by visual aids, and adherence to best practice guidelines. A four-week menu was available to parents and guardians.
- The service had a designated kitchen staff /chefs who prepared and cooked the meals and snacks. All meals and snacks were provided by the service, for children attending on a full day care / part time basis.
- At 10.00hrs, the children had their breakfast. A selection of cereals, porridge, fruit pieces, toast with milk or water to drink was offered.
- At 12.00hrs, the main meal is served.
- At 15.00hrs, the children are provided with the afternoon snack which would consist of crackers, ham, cheese, tomatoes, and cucumber.

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- At 16.30hrs, the children had the opportunity for a further snack of fruit pieces with milk to drink.
- At each meal and snack the children had the opportunity for seconds and or an alternative.
- Cutlery, plates, and crockery were offered for children’s meal / snack times.
- Clean and safe drinking water was at a low-level and accessible to children in each playroom.

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.

General safety

- There was a buzzer access system into the main entrance front door.
- The staff only areas, kitchen, storage areas and adult sanitary areas, 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 were kept for all of the children, that will be attending the pre-school.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted and or secured to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- The 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 hand washing without risk of scalding the children, was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.

- There were records of a regular pest control system, with records indicating the last professional review was dated 22nd of November 2023.
- 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.
- There were no pits or ponds in the outdoor area to cause any risk to the 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 manager advised that the outdoor play equipment would be cleaned regularly, with documented records maintained.
- The full day care room was observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- The passive ventilation covers in the sanitary areas were kept in a clean condition.
- The service had a cleaning schedule template and cleaning records for the materials, equipment, and furnishings.

Outings

- The service had insurance for outings.
- The manager ensured that there was a staff member with first aid / a first aid box on each outing, in the event of an emergency.

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

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)

Eight staff working in the pre-school service have a current paediatric first aid qualification.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was available and in an easily accessible conspicuous position in the full day care room.

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 partially 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 fire fighting equipment was dated 28th of November 2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the Junior Pre-school room 2.

Requirement not met:

(1)(b) The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 15th of November 2022.

Response from Provider:

The manager submitted evidence on 15th of December 2023, that the smoke and fire detection system was serviced.

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| Summary Comment: | The Early Years Inspectorate has assessed the evidence submitted and deems it to meet the registration requirements under Regulation 26. |
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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

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| Requirement met: | <p>The service's insurance with an expiry date 28th of March 2024, was for a full day care covering 130 children included the following -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – public liability insurance, – insurance against fire and theft, – buildings insurance, – insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision. |
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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.*

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| Requirement met: | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(a) In the full day care room there were openable windows and artificial lighting that was fitted with shatter proof covers.</p> <p>The underfloor heating system was thermostatically controlled thermostat to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C for the indoor rooms.</p> <p>On the day of inspection, the room temperature was maintained between 19.8°C.</p> <p>Records indicated that the heating system was last serviced on the 17th of November 2023.</p> |
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| | <p>The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature of 39.7°C and the manager advised it would be no greater than 43°C.</p> <p>(d) In the Full Day Care room, the play and work equipment was clean and in good repair.</p> <p>Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from and inaccessible to the pre-school children.</p> <p>From observation, the room was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.</p> <p>(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.</p> <p>There were two designated children’s toilets with two designated children’s wash hand basins.</p> <p>There were two designated adult-only toilets with two designated wash hand basins.</p> <p>There was a designated nappy changing area with a designated wash hand basin. There was an airtight sealable bin for the disposal of nappies. There was a supply of disposable aprons and gloves for staff involved in the nappy changing procedure.</p> <p>Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in designated dispensers were within easy access to a pre-school child. Foot operated pedaled lidded bins were provided in the sanitary areas.</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).*

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(5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed Full day care room to extend the number of children to attend from 20 to 22 children, for the free movement of children to work, rest, learn, and play.

(2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children.

(3) The measurement of:

- The full day care floor space was 51 square meters, thereby allowing a maximum of twenty two children.

thus, ensuring

- a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service.

and

- a minimum of 2.3 square metres of clear floor space, will be available for children aged 3 to 6 years, proposing to attend the part time / full day care service.
- A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are no more than 22 children are in a room in the service at any one time.