

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015RN052

Name of Service: Tir na nOg Creche

Address of Service: Cluain Fraoigh, Lanesboro Road, Co Roscommon.

Email Address: doylemairead@yahoo.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms. Mairead Ryan

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: Additional newly renovated playroom named the Middle room.
Increase of staff from 7 to 9.
Increase from a maximum number of 55 children at any one time to a maximum number of 65 children.

Proposed Number of Children: 65

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Approve all changes

Registered change: Change in number of children from 55 to 65
Change in number of staff from 7 to 9

Date of Inspection: 2 6 0 7 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: A. Kennedy & H. Heagney

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 65 Children
Date of Registration	31 st 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).

Description of Service	This privately owned early years' service is in a housing development, on the outskirts of the town of Roscommon. This service offers a full day care and part time care provision from 8.00hrs to 17.30hrs. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme and sessional care programme are also offered. The service is registered for pre-school children aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years of age. A child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on emerging interests is provided.
Premises	This purpose-built facility has three large pre-school rooms. Previously there were only two playrooms operating, namely, the Junior Pre-school room and the Senior Pre-school room. The premise has its own kitchen, where children's main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There is an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises for children's play, exploration, and fresh air. The purpose of this fit for purpose inspection is to open the third playroom namely the Middle room.
Staffing	The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named person able to deputise. Seven staff work in the pre-school service. Five staff work directly with the children and hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 or over, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. Additionally, there is a designated chef who prepares, cooks, and serves the daily main meal. It is proposed that the service will employ two new additional staff who will hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 or over, in Early Childhood Care and Education.
Methodology	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 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and staff who were present on the day of 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:

There will be 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.

Requirement 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 22 children at any one time, in the Middle room.

It is proposed that there will be two staff, who hold at hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education working directly with the proposed children in the Middle room.

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.

(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:

(1)(a)

The design, organisation, and resourcing of the newly developed Middle room environment would be able to support each child's wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service.

The playroom was designed and arranged to 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.

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, they were designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.

Middle room

Materials and items of interest included art and craft materials including lollipop sticks, scissors, paints, paint brushes, crayons, coloured pencils, art trays and bibs. There were potato heads, games, puzzles, pins, felt shapes, connectors, links, reels, and threading materials. There were stacking and hammering items, transport vehicles, and tracks.

There were castles, horses, animals, and a farmyard. There were blocks, bricks, an alphabet desk top activity centre, and a sand / water basin with utensils. There was a latch/ lock board, musical instruments, and a sensory table. There was a shop with shop registers, real and small world items. There were dolls, cots, prams, and cuddly toys. There was a selection of books in library shelving units. There was a kitchen with food items, pots, cutlery, crockery, and kitchen utensils. There were irons and ironing boards.

Displayed on the walls were posters and visual aids including ‘nice to meet you’, notice boards with curriculum posters, a farm mural on one wall, our class birthdays, this is my family, rockets with numbers, colours, and shapes. There were ribbons, a tree with monkeys’ stickers, a gingerbread man, and displays on the weather, our calendar, and the days of the week.

(1)(b)

A rest / quiet area was provided in the Middle room, in the form of a bean bags, soft seating, mats, cushions, and blankets to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to. There were stackable beds available in the pre-school service for any child requiring sleep provision.

(3)(a)

Outdoor area

The registered provider advised that the outdoor area was an extension of the indoor environment and linked with the learning that goes on inside. The Middle room had direct access to the outdoor play area. The registered provider advised that the children would have the opportunity to be outside as often as possible, in all weather conditions. The outdoor area was surrounded by fencing, walls, and gates. The outdoor area was to the rear of the premises and was covered with an impact absorbing matting and grass. The outdoor play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate. There was a large wooden climbing frame, with vantage point / slide. There was a

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swing set, a wooden play boat and a playhouse. There were bicycles, tricycles, scooters, push / pull toys and balls. There were sand / water basins with utensils. There was also a wooden storage shed for additional outdoor materials and equipment.

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 service had a healthy eating policy.

It is proposed that parents and guardians will provide food for their child's snack time in the Middle room.

The registered provider is proposing that children attending the service on a full day care basis will have two meals, and two snacks supplied by the service. The registered provider will ensure that each meal will have two food groups. The registered provider advises that the hot meals and snacks will be prepared, cooked, and stored on site from the services designated kitchen.

Drinks of milk and water will be offered for each child's meal / snack time.

A drinks table will be available in the Middle room and in the outdoor play area to allow the proposed children the opportunity to 'self-serve' their drinks.

Perishables items from the proposed children's lunch boxes will be stored in a designated fridge, in the Middle room.

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:

General Safety

- There was a buzzer access system into the main entrance front door.
- The staff only areas, kitchen, staff room, office, 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 were kept for all of 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 oil 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.
- Windows were fitted with restrictive access devices / safety systems. Window blind cords had appropriately secured fasteners. There were visibility strips on the glass doors as a safety precaution.
- There were records of a regular pest control system.
- 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 registered provider clearly identified to the early years' inspectors, 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 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 registered provider 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 Middle room for the storage of perishable foods.
- The Middle room was observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows and doors left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- The four ceiling mechanical ventilations covers, in the sanitary area were kept in a clean condition.
- The registered provider had a cleaning schedule template for the materials, equipment, and furnishings in the Middle room.

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. (1) Two staff who will be working in the proposed pre-school service have a current paediatric first aid qualification. (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid bag was stored on a high shelf in the Middle room, thereby in an easily accessible conspicuous position. (b) The first aid bag was readily available, with content items within date.
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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 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 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 15 th of June 2023. Records indicated that the last annual maintenance certificate for the smoke and fire detection system was dated 30 th of November 2022. (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed at the entrance to the Middle room.
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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) From a visual inspection the Middle room was of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The Middle room and the outdoor play area were safe and secure.
- (c) There was natural lighting in the Middle room with windows / a patio double door on one outer wall.

The proposed Middle room was well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors.

The artificial lighting provided was shatter proof.

The oil 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 Middle room temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.

The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature of 39°C and the registered provider advised it would be no greater than 43°C.

- (d) In the proposed Middle room, the play and work equipment was clean and in good repair.

Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from the proposed Middle room in the utility / sluice room, which was inaccessible to the pre-school children.

From observation, the furnished Middle room was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.

	<p>There were two designated children’s toilets with two designated children’s wash hand basins, for the children attending the Middle room.</p> <p>There were two designated adult toilets with two designated wash hand basins in the pre-school.</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 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..*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed Middle room for the free movement of children to work and play. (2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children. (3) The floor space measurement of the proposed Middle room was 56.46 square meters, thus indicating a maximum of 31 pre- school children can be accommodated on a sessional basis, therefore, a minimum of 1.81 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service. <p>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.</p>
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