

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D:	TU2015SO013												
Name of Service	First Friends Playgroup												
Address of Service:	Geevagh Community Childcare, Geevagh, Sligo, F52 Y338												
Email Address:	firstfriendsgeevagh@yahoo.ie												
Name of Registered Provider:	Elaine Mc Tiernan												
Type of Proposed Service:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Full Day Care</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Part-Time</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Sessional</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drop-In</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Childminding</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Temporary</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	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"/>
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:	Change in number of children accommodated from 20 to 22. Change in the type of service being provided to include full day care.												
Proposed Number of Children:	22												
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Provided that the requirements as detailed in the report are met, it is recommended that the proposed changes are approved.												
Registered change:	Change in Service Type from Sessional to Full Day Care Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 20 to 22												
Date of Inspection:	1 8 0 7 2 0 2 3												
Inspection undertaken by:	L Costello												
Title:	Early Years Inspector												
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84												

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 22 Children
Date of Registration	29 th 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).

Description of Service	Friends first is a community run sessional service located on the grounds of Geevagh Community Centre. The registered provider operates the service from Geevagh health centre each weekday and currently accommodates maximum of 20 preschool children aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years.
Premises	The early years' service operates from a HSE building. The current premises consists of 5 care rooms available to children and a large secure outdoor area on the grounds of the building.
Staffing	The service currently employs two staff members.
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> <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	The Inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children 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:

The requirement of Regulation 9 (1) (a) has been met. There is a designated person in charge of the service and a deputy 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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has identified that a minimum of two staff members will be on the premises at all times as evidenced by the proposed staffing roster for the service.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a). Adequate and suitable facilities were provided for children to play indoors and outdoors. All care rooms were bright and spacious and well laid out with various equipment suitable to the age and stage of development of the children.

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	<p>The care rooms had dedicated interest areas including construction, home corner, dress up, arts and crafts, building blocks and puzzles. All areas were well laid out with play materials accessible to children on open low-level shelving. Toys and materials available were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children using the service.</p> <p>(b). Adequate and suitable rest facilities were available for preschool children to rest during the day if required. A rest area is provided upstairs with soft furnishings and a library area. Low level mats to accommodate rest or sleep for the children remaining in the service following the seasonal period are available if required.</p> <p>(2)(a). The service has direct access to a large designated outdoor play area. The area is equipped with a range of play materials including swings, slides, bikes trikes, mud kitchens and tyres. Natural materials of trees and hedges provide opportunities for exploration and adventure with a mix of natural and artificial flooring.</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:	<p>This requirement has partly been met.</p> <p>There is a healthy eating policy in place within the service and this will be adapted to meet the provision of a hot meal.</p> <p>Snacks are provided from home and all perishable items will be bagged, labelled, and will be stored in the service fridge.</p> <p>Drinking water is available throughout the day in the service.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>This requirement has not been met.</p> <p>The service currently does not have a kitchen for food preparation. The registered provider is awaiting environmental health officers' assessment for an appropriate food preparation area for the service.</p>

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	The registered provider must provide a hot meal to meet requirements to provide a full day care service.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider has submitted documentary evidence that included a plan of the kitchen which will be completed the 28 th August 2023. An invoice to evidence this work was submitted.
Summary Comment:	The works to complete the kitchen will be completed on the 28 th August 2023.

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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>The following measures were noted on the day of inspection to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External doors were adequately secure to ensure the safety of the children within the service. The entrance door to the preschool was equipped with a bell for entrance to the service. • There was provision for the appropriate storage and disposal of waste including foot operated pedal bins in care rooms and sanitary areas. • All materials and equipment appeared sturdy and strong, with no sharp edges or broken equipment. • There is a fire evacuation plan in places and all fire doors remain unobstructed. • Suitable hand washing facilities including liquid soap and single use paper towels were provided in the children’s and adults sanitary accommodation. <p>Thermostatically controlled warm water was available in all wash hand basins accessible to children.</p>
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- The premises and play equipment were visibly clean. Cleaning equipment and materials were stored in a designated storage area that was secured and not accessible to children.

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—
- 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.

- Certification was available to demonstrate that a person trained in first aid res was available to the children at all times.
- (a)(b). A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the service and stored in a conspicuous location in the premises.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - 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 was met.

- (a). The registered provider indicated that fire drill will take place monthly, in the service and appropriate documentation was in place to record them.
 - (b). There was a record available to indicate the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm in the service.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in various conspicuous locations within the service.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection.

The insurance submitted is sufficient for 22 children availing of a Full day care service.

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 was partially met.

(a). On a visual inspection the premises appeared to be in a sound and stable structure.

(c). All care rooms benefited from natural light with large windows in all rooms. If required artificial lighting was available in all rooms. Ventilation was in place through openable windows. The heating system was oil central heating operated by the HSE who owns the building. The radiators are thermostatically controlled.

(d). Cleaning schedules were in place in the service and the indoor environment was clean and well maintained.

(e). The service was equipped with adequate sanitary facilities. There was one toilet and wash hand basin designated for use of staff working in the service located downstairs. There were two toilets and two wash hand basins designated for children's use. There was no nappy changing facilities available as it is intended that all children attending the service will be toilet trained.

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Requirement not met:	(b)The outdoor area was secure by fencing around the area. However, on a small section at the bottom of the garden, this fencing was low and posed a risk of unsupervised egress from the service due to footholds positioning and height of fence. The field adjacent to the service has a drain and access to the road.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider has submitted documentary evidence of works completed to reduce this risk.
Summary Comment:	This requirement has now been met.

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) *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).

Requirement met:	This requirement has been met. (1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children. (2) A clear floor area of 81.18m ² was measured in the service which is sufficient to cater for 22 pre-school children aged between 3 and 6 years to attend the services full day care provision.
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(3) There was adequate floor space to accommodate children whom attend a concurrent sessional service. The registered provider proposes to have a maximum of 22 children on a sessional, part time and full-time basis at any one time.