

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015SO040

Name of Service Lollipop Lane Creche, Montessori and Afterschool

Address of Service: Springvale, Tubbercurry, Sligo, F91 D76V

Email Address: lollipoplanecreche@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Louise Kilbane

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

Proposed change:	Proposing to increase numbers from 60 to 120
Proposed Number of Children:	120
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	The recommended change is to increase the number from 60 children to 109 children as per regulation 30.
Registered change:	Change in number of children from 60 to 109(Max 86 full day/part-time) children

Date of Inspection:	2	2	0	7	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: K Folan & L Costello
Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, 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, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 109(Max 86 full day/part-time) Children
Date of Registration	15 th August 2025

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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	Lollipop Lane Creche, Montessori and Afterschool is located on the outskirts of the town of Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo. It is a privately owned purpose-built childcare facility providing full, part time and sessional service. The service is registered for 60 preschool children aged 1-6 years. It also operates a service for school aged children.
Premises	The ground floor building is located in a commercial premises within a residential development. At present, there is five care rooms in place. It is proposed to add an additional sixth care room to provide sessional and full day care to children aged 3-6 years. There is a large outdoor area directly situated off four of the care rooms.
Staffing	There are 17 staff employed to provide direct care to the children. In addition, the service employs two staff, one administrator and one cook, who do not provide direct care to the children.
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>

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Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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 has been met. (1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy person in charge.
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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. The Registered Provider will ensure there is adequate staff for the proposed number of children due to attend the service.
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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.

(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 or

(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service.

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Requirement met:	<p>This requirement has partially been met.</p> <p>Room 1</p> <p>The room contained a home corner for imaginative play and a sofa area should the children require a rest. Art and craft materials were available as well as book and puzzles.</p> <p>Room 3</p> <p>The play materials in this room were appropriate for the age and stage of the children aged 3-6 years such as dress up clothing, a home corner with a play kitchen, construction blocks, sensory trays and art and craft materials.</p> <p>Room 4</p> <p>The play materials in this room were suitable for the proposed age range of 3-6 years such as open-ended materials, a library area and a rest area. Toys were easily accessed by the children on low level shelving.</p> <p>Room 5</p> <p>The equipment in the room was suitable for the age of children aged 3-6 years, such as a kitchen, home corner, a book area, construction blocks, puzzles and open-ended materials.</p> <p>This room contained chairs and tables for 8 children aged 3-6 years.</p> <p>Room 6</p> <p>The materials for play in this room were suitable for children aged 3-6 years and included a vehicle and transport area, a play kitchen and a dress up area. Puzzles and games were easily accessible on low shelving.</p> <p>The outdoor area is enclosed with high walls and divided into 3 areas by fencing, allowing separate groups of children to access the outdoors at the same time. The area</p>
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	<p>is covered in grass with bark trails lining the perimeter. The outdoor area is accessed directly off the main four care rooms.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>Room 1</p> <p>The chairs and tables in place in this room currently do not meet the requirement for the age group of children due to attend in this room. Chairs should be suitable for the age of the children in the room, allowing children's feet to rest on the floor.</p> <p>Room 2</p> <p>The chairs and tables in the room are not suitable for the proposed age of the children who will occupy this room. This room requires suitable chairs and tables for maximum of 24 children aged 3-6 years to attend on a sessional basis. The equipment for play in this room caters for children under the age of 3. Suitable and appropriate play materials are required for this room.</p> <p>Room 3</p> <p>This room requires an additional seven chairs and suitable tables for a maximum of 17 children to attend on a sessional basis.</p> <p>Room 4</p> <p>This room requires 3 additional chairs and a suitable table for a maximum of 18 children to attend on a sessional basis.</p> <p>Room 5</p> <p>This room requires an additional 6 chairs and tables suitable to the needs of a maximum of 14 children to attend on a sessional basis.</p> <p>Room 6</p> <p>This room requires an additional 4 chairs and a suitable table for a maximum of 22 children to attend on a sessional basis</p>

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Response from Provider:	The registered provider submitted photographic evidence that demonstrated each room from 1-6 now has the required amount of furniture, equipment and materials for children aged 3-6 years.
Summary Comment:	This requirement has been met.

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. The service has a healthy eating policy in place. All meals and snacks are cooked onsite, and a four weekly menu is available.
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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 partially been met. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The door into the service was secure on the inspector's arrival to the service. The outdoor area was secure with high walls. The kitchen was inaccessible to the preschool children. Cleaning schedules are in place and the service was in a clean and hygienic condition. Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available for handwashing. Cleaning products are kept out of reach of children. Foot operated pedal bins are available for waste.
Requirement not met:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mechanism of a pedal operated bin in room six was broken, posing a risk of cross infection.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider submitted photographic evidence to demonstrate a replacement pedal operated bin had been purchased for the setting.
Summary Comment:	This requirement has been met.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

- (1) The person in charge provided documentary evidence that seven adults have received first aid training for children and is aware that at least one of the seven adults should be on the premises at all times and be available to the children.
- (2)(a)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available in each 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 met.

- (1)(a) There is a log in place to record any fire drills that will take place.
- (b) There is a written record of the number type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment which were serviced in April 2025. Smoke alarms were in place and last serviced in June 2024.

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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. The registered provider has insurance in place for 120 children which commenced on 22 May 2025 and expires on 27 March 2026.

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 has been partially met.

(a) The person in charge confirmed to the inspectors that they were not aware of any defects with the structure of the building. On visual inspection, the service appeared to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) Entry to the main building was accessed through a bell entry system and the main door was kept locked throughout the inspection. The perimeter of the building was secured by high walls.

(c) The six care rooms have natural lighting supplemented by fluorescent lighting. Openable windows were present in each care room for ventilation. In the sanitary accommodation, openable windows were supplemented by mechanical ventilation. The gas heating system provides underfloor heating which was serviced on 30 June 2025.

(d) The service appeared visibly clean and maintained. The service employs a cleaner who attends outside of the services opening times. Cleaning schedules are in place. The service uses a pest control company who carries out scheduled visits throughout the year, the most recent being 12 June 2025.

(e) The service had 10 toilets and 10 wash hand basins for children and three toilets with three hand wash basins for adults. This is adequate for 109 children.

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Requirement not met:	The mechanical ventilation in the sanitary accommodation in room four was not working.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider submitted photographic evidence to demonstrate the ventilation had been repaired.
Summary Comment:	This requirement has 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) 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 sessional pre-school service, and
 - 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 not met:	<p>This requirement has been partially met.</p> <p>(1) The space available would allow a recommendation of 109 children however not the requested 120 as outlined in the table below.</p> <p>(2)(3)(4)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of Room</th> <th>Proposed Number of Children</th> <th>Age of Preschool children</th> <th>Clear floor space Available</th> <th>Number of children allowed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Room 1</td> <td>11 full day care 15 sessional</td> <td>3-6 years</td> <td>26.753m²</td> <td>Maximum of 11 full day care</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Name of Room	Proposed Number of Children	Age of Preschool children	Clear floor space Available	Number of children allowed	Room 1	11 full day care 15 sessional	3-6 years	26.753m ²	Maximum of 11 full day care
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					14 sessional at age 3-6 years.
	Room 2	21 full day care 27 sessional	3-6 years	45.172m ²	Maximum of 19 full day care 24 sessional at 3-6 years of age.
	Rom 3	15 full day care 19 sessional	3-6 years	32.132m ²	Maximum of 14 full day care 17 sessional at 3-6 years of age.
	Room 4	16 full day care 20 sessional	3-6 years	33.507m ²	Maximum of 14 full day care 18 sessional at 3-6 years of age.
	Room 5	12 full day care 15 sessional	3-6 years	25.82m ²	Maximum of 11 full day care 14 sessional at 3-6 years of age.
	Room 6	19 full day care 24 sessional	3-6 years	41.12m ²	Maximum of 17 full day care 22 sessional at 3-6 years of age.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider has accepted the recommended maximum of 109 children as detailed in the above table.				
Summary Comment:	This requirement has been met.				