

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015SO051

**Name of Service:** Sandcastles Childcare Centre

**Address of Service:** Enniscrone, Co. Sligo

**Email Address:** info@sandcastles-childcare.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Justine Reape

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

**Proposed change:** Change in Number of Children that can be Accommodated – from 116 to 106 (change a sessional room to 1–3-year-olds room, additional sleep area added)

**Proposed Number of Children:** 106

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Recommended change as per proposal

**Registered change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 116 to 106.

**Date of Inspection:** 2 7 1 0 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**

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care Service for 106 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> November 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>	This service is a community based; purpose built childcare facility which has been in operation since 2007. It is located on the edge of the seaside town of Enniscrone in Co. Sligo. The service is registered as Full day, part time and sessional care for children from six months to six years of age is offered. The service is also registered for school age children. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 08:00 and 18:30 hours.
<b>Premises</b>	The premises is a ground floor purpose built childcare facility. The service has five care rooms, two dedicated sleep rooms a kitchen and office. The change in circumstance submitted was for the change of use of one care room to a sleep room and care room.
<b>Staffing</b>	There is twenty-one adults employed in the service with a qualification in Early Childhood care and education. The service also employs a cook and administrator. The registered provider does not work in the service.
<b>Methodology</b>	<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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge and staff who were present on the day of the inspection.

### Part III - Management and Staff

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.

### 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 confirmed that they are aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6, extra staff have been recruited for this 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, 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.

(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met:

	<p>(1) a) The room is well equipped with suitable toys and resources appropriate to the age and stage of development of the proposed children. Interest areas in the room included, home corner, construction area, hospital, arts and crafts, puzzles and tabletop activities and a library. Low level tables and chairs were available for mealtimes and tabletop activities.</p> <p>(1) (b) There was a designated sleep room off the main car room with three standard cots and a number of stackable floor beds to be used in the main care room. There was a rest area in the corner of the care room, with a couch and soft cushions and floor mats, so children can rest throughout the day or opt out of an activity.</p> <p>(2) (a) It is proposed that the care room seeking registration has direct access to the existing outdoor play area. This outdoor area is covered to facilitate outdoor play in all weathers. Resources and materials in the outdoor space included bikes and trikes, playhouses, mud kitchens, slides, footballs.</p> <p>(4) The outdoor area is safe and secure with a concrete and mental mesh fencing. Access to the outdoor is only through the preschool.</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:**

This requirement has been met.

The registered provider informed the inspector that all meals are provided within the service. There is a four-week menu plan in place in line with the service healthy eating policy.

**Part VI – Safety**

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.

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.

- Provisions were made to prevent adults gaining unauthorised entry to the facility by way of secure entry and exit points and an internal keypad entry system.
- The outdoor play area was enclosed with metal-based grid fencing and concrete wall throughout. There were no observable hazards on the grounds of the outdoor area. Toys and equipment appeared in good condition, appropriate for the proposed age group of children and free from obvious hazards.
- Suitable hand washing facilities including liquid soap and single use paper towels were provided in the children's and adults sanitary accommodation and in the preschool rooms. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available in all wash hand basins accessible to children.
- The premises and play equipment was visibly clean. Cleaning equipment and materials were stored in a designated storage area that was secured and not accessible to children.
- There was a fridge available in the care room for storage of infant formula sent in from home.
- All cleaning equipment were stored out of the reach of preschool children.
- A cleaning schedule was in place.

### Part VI - Safety

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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) All adults were trained in first aid for children including first aid responder (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2). (a)(b).

The first aid equipment was readily available and safely stored in a conspicuous location in the service.

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

1) (a)

The designated person in charge provided evidence of monthly fire drills taking place in the service the most recent being the 18.10.2023.

(b) The service maintained an inventory of all fire equipment and smoke detection systems in the facility with the most recent service date of 04.08.2023.

(4) The fire evacuation procedure was displayed in conspicuous position in the care rooms and the assembly point was noted to the front of the building.

### Part VI – Safety

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

The service had on display a certificate of insurance valid until the 27 March 2024 showing that adequate full day care service insurance cover was in place for the service’s maximum number of children which is 106 preschool children.

### 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:

(a)

On a visual inspection, Internal walls, floors and ceilings in the service were in a good state of repair and maintenance on the day of inspection. Windows, glass panels and doors were both water-tight and weather-tight with no evidence of dampness or mould growth.

(b)

Entrance to the service was through a secured door operated by a keypad buzzer system. Access to all the care rooms was through hallway which was keypad controlled. The proposed care room had direct access to the outdoor area which was secure.

(c)

An adequate source of oil central heating was provided in the service and sanitary accommodation. The lighting was provided by natural light from the floor to ceiling windows provided on one side of the room, supported by four fluorescent lights if required. The sleep room had a large window with a blackout blind to aid sleep. Lighting in this room was available through the natural light or fluorescent ceiling light.

	<p>(d)                  The care room was brightly painted and clean. All materials and resources appeared in good condition. The overall building was clean and well maintained.</p> <p>(e)                  There were adequate sanitary facilities available. One toilet and sink were available to preschool children and a separate nappy changing unit and handwash sink. The sanitary area was adequately ventilated with a working mechanical system. All bins were foot operated. The service had a contract with pest control and the refuse bins were kept in an area inaccessible to children.</p> <p>children. The service had availed of a pest control contract for rodent control.</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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children.</p> <p>(2) A clear floor area of 49.516m<sup>2</sup> was measured in the care room which is sufficient to cater for 14 pre-school children aged between 0 and 1 years or 17 pre-school children aged between 1 and 2 years to attend the services full day care provision. The new sleep room measures 7.19m<sup>2</sup>, suitable for the number of standard cots provided.</p>
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