

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015SO064

**Name of Service** Toadstool Cottage

**Address of Service:** Ballyrush, Sligo, F52 D402

**Email Address:** toadstoolcottage@yahoo.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Michael Murphy

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

**Proposed change:** To change use of room from Baby room to preschool sessional. To increase numbers from 42 to 44 preschool children.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 44

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Approved change of use of room to preschool room and approve increase in numbers from 42 to 44 preschool children.

**Registered change:** Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 42 to 44

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

**Inspection undertaken by:** L Costello

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Services, 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 44 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Toadstool Cottage is a community run full day care early years' service. The service was established in February 2008, in a rural setting a few kilometres from Castlebaldwin village. The service is currently registered to cater for a maximum of 42 preschool children, ranging from 0 to 6 years of age and the operating hours are 08:00 to 17.30.
<b>Premises</b>	The service operates from a converted and adapted domestic house in the countryside. There are three rooms currently in use available to children. The current proposal is to reopen an additional room. The kitchen is separated from the play areas by a lobby area. The outdoor area is a spacious fully contained area, with direct access of the lobby area.
<b>Staffing</b>	The registered provider is a committee member and not involved in the daily operation of the service. The manager is the person in charge. There are a total of 11 adults employed within the service, 9 of these adults work directly with the children including the person in charge.
<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 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:**

This requirement has been met.

(1) (a) The registered provider has ensured that there will be a person in charge working in the service at all times and person who is able to deputise.

### 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 currently has the sufficient minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 2 of Schedule 6 and will ensure that an adequate number of adults will at all times work directly with the number of children attending 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:**

This requirement has been met.

- (1) (a). Adequate and suitable facilities were provided for the children to play indoors and outdoors. The proposed care room was bright and spacious and well laid out with various equipment and play materials on open low level shelving units. Interest areas included home corner, dress up, construction area, building blocks, puzzles, books and arts and crafts.
- (1) (b). Adequate and suitable rest facilities were available for preschool children to rest during the day if required. In one corner of the proposed room a rest area with soft cushions and flooring was available for children to rest throughout the day. Low level beds stored adjacent to the room are available which can be laid out in the room for those children wishing to sleep if required.
- (2) (b). The service has a large secure outdoor area on the premises. This area is equipped with a variety of materials including playhouses, swings, slides, see saws, trikes, bikes. A natural area for children to explore included fruit trees and planting area to facilitate learning.

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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.

A separate kitchen was available in the service for the preparation of food. A 4-week rolling menu plan was available in the service in line with the service healthy eating policy. The person in charge explained that a hot meal is served daily as the main meal alongside two snacks provided by the service for the children attending on a part time or full time basis. Children in the sessional service bring in a snack from home which is stored in the fridges in each care 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:

This requirement has been met.

- External doors were adequately secure to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons entering the service or children exiting unsupervised. The entrance door was equipped with a buzz in entry system.
- Facilities were accessible for the safe and secure storage of cleaning agents and equipment. A cleaning schedule was in place.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to children.
- Materials and resources were maintained in a good state of repair.
- There was provision for the appropriate storage and disposal of waste including foot operated pedal bins in the care room and sanitary area.
- The service had an active contract with a pest control agent.
- The outdoor area was appropriately secure, with fencing and gates for access.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Certification was available to evidence that 10 members of staff were trained in first aid for children. Therefore, a person trained in first aid for children was available to children at all times.
- (2) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the service and stored in a conspicuous location within 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 person in charge demonstrated that fire drills take place monthly in the service and provided appropriate documentation for recording them.
- (1) (b). There was a record to indicate the number type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. The last service date was 29.03.2023.
- (4). A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous location in the proposed care 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:

This requirement has been met.

- (a) The proposed care room for use in the preschool on visual inspection appears of sound and stable structure with no evidence of mould growth, cracks in structure or dampness.
- (b) Entrance to the service was safe and secure with a buzz entry system in place. The outdoor area had a secure perimeter with access only through the service or a monitored gate.
- (c) The proposed care room was adequately lit with a natural light supplied by two large windows. Artificial light was available if required. The service was heated by oil and the service had a record of the maintenance of this system. Ventilation in the care room was provided naturally by open windows. The internal nappy changing area had a mechanical ventilation system in place, which appeared in good working order.
- (d) The care room was clean and well maintained. A cleaning schedule and checklist was displayed on the wall of the care room.

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(e) The service was equipped with adequate sanitary facilities. There was one toilet and wash hand basin designated for use by staff working in the service. There was 4 toilets and 4 wash hand basins designated for use of the children. Nappy changing facilities available adjacent to the care rooms. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water was available in the sanitary areas. All wash hand basins had a supply of liquid soap, hand towels and foot operated waste bins suitable to appropriate hand hygiene.

### 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.*

#### 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 19.28m<sup>2</sup> was measured in the additional room which is sufficient to cater for a maximum of 6 pre-school children aged between 2 and 3 years to attend the services full day care provision and sessional service.