

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015TY003

Name of Service ABC Pre-school

Address of Service: Friar Street, Thurles, Co Tipperary

Email Address: norahcommins@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Norah Commins

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: Increase from 59 children to 81 children. Change in number of staff from 14 to 18.

Proposed Number of Children: 81

Recommended Change Following Inspection: 70 children maximum. Change in number of staff from 14 to 18.

Registered change: Change in number of children to 70 children.
Change in number of staff to 18 staff.

Date of Inspection: 0 9 0 3 2 0 2 6

Inspection undertaken by: A. McNamara & L. McGeeney

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary
E91RF38

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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 with 70 Children
Date of Registration	30th March 2026

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 full day care service was established to provide care and education to children aged 0 to 6 years. A registered school age care service is also provided. The current service operates Monday to Friday, 07:30 to 18:00 for 50 weeks of the year. This includes a three-hour sessional service funded under the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) for eligible children which operates Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 12:00 for 38 weeks of the year. This is one of two sister services in the Thurles area. The service is proposing the addition of two pre-school rooms upstairs to provide care to 22 children. The rooms were previously used by the school age care service.
Premises	The service is operated from a two-storey, mid-terrace premises in the town of Thurles in Co Tipperary. This former business and residential premises were converted for use as a childcare facility. The current early years service consists of one large care room split with a low height partition, and two other separate care rooms, a sleep room, kitchen, sanitary accommodation areas and outdoor play areas. The addition of two rooms is proposed. This will make a total of six care rooms for the children.
Staffing	There is a total of 21 staff including the registered provider, an administration staff and school age staff working in the service. The registered provider works directly in the service. Staff working directly with pre-school children held qualifications in Early Childhood Education at level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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<p>Methodology</p>	<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>
<p>Acknowledgements</p>	<p>The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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.

The registered provider is the designated person in charge and works directly with the children attending the service. A second named staff member is available to deputise as required.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

The registered provider is familiar with the Child Care Act 1991(early years services) Regulations 2016, Schedule 6 Adult: Child ratios and will ensure that there are always adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service. The registered provider is familiar with the requirement to have two staff present when registered and operating as a full day care.

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.

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	<p>(1)(a) The upstairs rooms provided sufficient space. The rooms had equipment suitable for the number, age and stage of development of the children who will attend the service.</p> <p>(b) There was a rest area available to the children. There was a sleep room and floor beds available to the children that needed to nap during the day.</p> <p>(2) Children had access to a fully enclosed play area to the rear of the property. The area has large spaces designated to different age groups with a range of outdoor play materials. A covered area was also available to the children.</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:

The requirement has been met.

The service had access to a kitchen and provided both morning snack and a main meal to the children. Parents will be asked to supply the afternoon snack to the children should they be attending for a full day. The registered provider will have additional snacks available on the premises in the event that a child has forgotten their food. Children attending the ECCE session had the option to bring a packed lunch to eat in the morning.

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:

The requirement has been met.

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	<p>Infection control:</p> <p>There was warm running water throughout the service. There were designated children’s toilets available. Designated staff toilets were also provided on the premises.</p> <p>Administration of medication:</p> <p>There was a policy on the safe administration of medications to children attending the service.</p> <p>General safety:</p> <p>The main door to the premises had to be opened by staff.</p> <p>There were handrails on the stairs for use by the children and staff when using the stairs.</p> <p>Safe sleep:</p> <p>The service has a safe sleep policy in place.</p>
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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) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that staff were currently trained in FAR first aid for children and will always be present on the premises.
- (2)(a) A suitable and fully equipped first aid box was available.
- (b) First aid box was stored in an easily accessible place.

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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) The registered provider was familiar with the requirement to carry out monthly fire drills.

(b) Fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms were present, and contracts are in place for the regular service and maintenance of same.

(4) A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the playrooms and the fire assembly point was clearly identified.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

An insurance certificate to demonstrate that insurance was in place was available.

Registration is contingent upon the registered provider maintaining up-to-date insurance coverage that accurately reflects the number of children attending the 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:

The requirement has been met.

(a) The premises and outdoor spaces appear to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) There were adequate measures in place to ensure children could not leave unsupervised and unauthorized people could not enter.

(c) The playrooms were lit and ventilated by natural light through openable windows on external walls, supplemented by artificial lighting when needed. All sanitary accommodation had ventilation.

The stairs were well lit by both natural and artificial light.

The heating system consisted of radiators which could be thermostatically controlled so that the surface temperature of the radiators in each room does not exceed 50°C. Electric heating and cooling units were in use throughout the service to supplement the heat from the radiators and to help cool the rooms in hot weather. These units were stored out of reach of the children.

The service recently installed solar panels which generate electricity for the service and heat the water.

(d) The premises was in good repair. There was a plan to repaint the walls in the upstairs rooms over the Easter holidays.

(e) The service had adequate sanitary accommodation for the number of children and staff who will be present in the service at any one-time. There were five nappy changing stations, three children’s toilets and three staff toilets with hand basins.

This was sufficient provision for up to 55 children in nappies, 33 toilet trained children and 24 staff.

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One of the nappy changing stations was built over a child sized toilet. If the number of toilet trained children increased above 33 children, the nappy changing unit could be removed and access given to the toilet, thus providing four children's toilets, or provision for up to 44 toilet trained children.

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) 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:

The requirement has been met.

All rooms were remeasured during the inspection.

(1) There is adequate clear floor space available to accommodate the numbers for children who will attend the service:

- Little acorns (upstairs): 30.28m² of clear floor space available.
- Early explorers (upstairs): 31.99m² of clear floor space available.
- Little Treasures: 28.33m² of clear floor space available

- Little Lobsters: 33.91m² of clear floor space available
- Little Einstein's 1: 25.81m² of clear floor space available
- Little Einstein's 2: 49.95m² of clear floor space available

(2) The upstairs rooms will only cater for children aged 3 – 6 years old. There was sufficient space available upstairs for up to 26 on a part-time or full-time basis.

However, planning permission for use of this space by preschool children has set the maximum capacity of this space to 22 children, therefore the proposed space being added to the preschool service has a maximum capacity of 22 children.

There was sufficient space downstairs in the current rooms in the service to provide accommodation for the following full day care children:

- Little Treasures: 10 children aged 1-2 years.
- Little Lobsters: 12 children aged 1-2 years or 14 children aged 2-3 years.
- Little Einstein's 1: 9 children aged 1-2 years.
- Little Einstein's 2: 3 children aged 0-1 and 14 children aged 1-2 years.

(3) There was sufficient space available for up to 22 children aged between 2.5 and 6 years old to attend on a sessional basis at a space requirement of 1.818m² per child.

(4) There was sufficient space available for the proposed sessional and full day care service to operate contemporaneously.