

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015TY094

Name of Service: Cahir Bears Childcare Centre

Address of Service: Duneske, Farranlahassery, Cahir, Co. Tipperary

Email Address: aodonnell@cahirda.com

Name of Registered Provider: Geraldine Ryan

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 in numbers from 63 to 74

Proposed Number of Children: 74

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Increase maximum number accommodated to 74 children.

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated – from **63 to 74 children**

Date of Inspection: 0 2 0 9 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: L McGeeney

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: North Tipperary Civic Offices,
Limerick Road, Nenagh,
Co. Tipperary

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered full day care and sessional service for 74 children.
Date of Registration	18.09.2024

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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	This community operated full day care service was established in 2006 to provide care and education to children aged 0 – 6 years old. The service is open to the children for 50 weeks of the year, Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm. Staff are present in the service from 8am each day. During the 38-week school year, a three-hour sessional service is provided, Monday to Friday between 9am and 12pm, funded under the early childhood care and education scheme (ECCE) for eligible children.
Premises	The service is located in a residential area in the town of Cahir in south Tipperary adjacent to the community playground and leisure centre which, along with Cahir bears Childcare Centre, are operated under the auspices of Cahir Development Association. The service is operated from a single storey, detached, purpose-built premises which consists of five activity rooms, sanitary accommodation areas, reception area, staff room, kitchen, storage room and a large outdoor play area.
Staffing	The registered provider does not work in the service. The service manager is the person in charge on a daily basis. There are 16 staff working in the service including the manager, kitchen staff, housekeeping staff, receptionist and 12 staff employed to work directly with the children. Staff who work with the children hold recognised qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels 5, 6 or 8 on the national qualification’s framework.
Methodology	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. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service manager was the designated person in charge and there were two named staff who could deputise in her 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) There were 8 staff working directly with 34 children aged between 1 and 5 years old on the afternoon of the inspection. Staff and children were divided between 4 activity rooms or their corresponding outdoor play areas as follows:

Junior Toddler room: There were 4 children aged between 1 and 2 years old with 2 staff

Senior Toddler room: There 8 children aged between 18 months and 2 ½ years old with 2 staff.

Pre-school room 2: There were 12 children aged between 3 and 4 years old with 2 staff

Preschool room 1: There were 10 children aged between 3 and 5 years old with 5 staff.

The service manager was also available to provide relief in the rooms if required. The catering and household staff who were present in the service were not included in the adult to child ratios.

The manager stated that the adult to child ratios are maintained within the requirements throughout the day.

(8)(a) There were at least two staff present in the service while it was in operation.

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.*
- (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*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service had five spacious and well-resourced activity rooms available to the children. The rooms were designated according to the age and stage of development of the children. Four of the rooms were in use on the day of inspection as the baby room was currently closed.

Development work had been undertaken on Preschool room 1 over the summer to enlarge it. This was achieved by removing a dividing wall in the room which separated it from the adjoining room, to create a larger space for the children in their second ECCE year.

On the day of inspection all of the children enjoyed outdoor play in one of the four, spacious and well-resourced outdoor play areas.

(b) Each room had a cosy corner where the children could rest and relax during the day. These spaces were furnished with a large floor rug and scatter cushions and covered with a light curtain or canopy. There was a sleep room adjacent to the baby and toddler room which was furnished with eight standard cots where children aged under two years old could sleep during the day according to their individual sleep needs and schedules. Camp beds were available for children aged over two years old who required a sleep during the day.

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(3)(a) The service had developed the large area at the back of the premises into four outdoor play areas, each with a covered area and an open area so that children could enjoy daily outdoor play in all weathers. Each space was enclosed by wooden and metal fencing and gates. The ground surface was covered with soft fall matting. There were storage sheds for equipment, planting boxes, natural resources such as gravel, sand, water, tyre swings and tree stump steps. The children also had access to the community playground. The manager stated that this resource was used when the playground was quiet.

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 service had insurance cover for a full day care service catering for up to 75 children at any one time valid until 27 March 2025.

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 appeared to be of sound and stable structure. As part of the development of Preschool room 1, a window in the side was removed and replaced by a fire exit door and an internal door was replaced by a window.

(b) The premises was safe and secure. Entry to the service was through the front entrance door which was kept secured by an electronic locking system. Staff could enter the premises by using the keypad beside the door. There was a bell system for

parents and visitors to use to alert staff that they sought entry. The outdoor area was enclosed by fencing and gates which prevented a child from leaving the service unattended or gaining access to the car park and roadway in front of the service.

The children did not have access to the kitchen, utility room or cleaning store.

(c) The premises was heated by an oil-fired, underfloor, central heating system. Each room used by the children had natural light and ventilation, supplemented by artificial lighting where required. Window blinds were available to help the staff manage the amount of natural light entering each room. Blind cords were secured to the wall for safety.

(d) The premises, equipment, materials, fixtures and fittings were clean, well maintained and in good repair. The service had a cleaning schedule and a member of staff responsible for managing housekeeping.

(e) The development work over the summer included converting the utility room across the corridor from Preschool room 1 into a sanitary accommodation area for the children with 2 toilets and wash hand basin. The utility room was moved into a space that had been a shower room. This increased the sanitary accommodation provision for children to a total of 6 toilets and wash hand basins in three separate areas, which was sufficient provision for up to 66 toilet trained children. There were two nappy changing units in two separate areas, with hand washing sinks adjacent to them, which was sufficient provision for up to 22 children who required nappy changing. There were three toilets and wash hand basins available for staff which was sufficient provision for up to 24 staff. There was sufficient sanitary accommodation in the service for the proposed numbers of children and staff.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(2)(3)(4) The newly enlarged room was measured as part of the inspection process and the plans of the building were assessed for the sizes of the rest of the rooms.

The service had the following free floor space available to the children:

Baby room = 31.4m². This was sufficient space for up to 9 babies aged 0 – 1 year

Junior Toddler room = 37m². This was sufficient space for up to 13 children aged 1 – 2 years

Senior Toddler room = 47.6m². This was sufficient space for up to 20 children aged between 2 and 3 years old.

Preschool room 1 = 44.62m². This was sufficient space for up to 22 children aged 2.5 to 6 years old attending on a sessional basis or 19 children aged 3 to 6 years old attending on a part time or full day care basis.

Preschool room 2 = 59.8m². This was sufficient space for up to 22 children aged 2.5 to 6 years old attending on a sessional basis or 26 children aged 3 to 6 years old attending on a part time or full day care basis.

There was sufficient space for the 74 children that the service proposes to cater for.