

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015TY110

Name of Service Gortnahoe Community Playgroup

Address of Service: Community Hall, Gortnahoe, Thurles, Co Tipperary, E41 PF95

Email Address: gortnahoeplayschool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Richard B Dunne

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

Proposed change: Change in service type from sessional to full daycare & sessional
Change of hours from 09:15 to 12:15 to 09:15 to 17:00.

Proposed Number of Children: 44 children (44 children, of which a maximum of 32 can attend for full day care)

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in service type from sessional to full daycare & sessional
Change of hours from 09:15 to 12:15 to 09:15 to 17:00.

Registered change: Change in service type from sessional to full daycare & sessional
Change of hours from 09:15 to 12:15 to 09:15 to 17:00.

Date of Inspection: 2 8 0 1 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: C. Ryan

Title: EYI

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspector , Tusla Child and Family Agency
Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford

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Rationale for Inspection:

Change from sessional to full daycare

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day & Sessional Service for 44 (Max 32 Full Day) Children
Date of Registration	20th August 2025

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	<p>Gortnahoe Community Playgroup is a community preschool service. The service provides a play based sessional service to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The opening hours are Monday to Friday 09:15 to 12:15 38 weeks per year.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to change from sessional to full daycare to accommodate the needs of the families and children attending the service who require additional childcare hours. There registered provider does not wish to increase the number of children attending above the current 44 children, of which a maximum of 32 can attend for full day care.</p>
Premises	The preschool operates from two playrooms designated solely for the purpose of the children. The service consists of an entrance lobby, two playrooms, children’s toilets and a separate staff toilet and an office. Outside, children have access to secured play area.
Staffing	There are currently eight staff working directly with the children in the service. The registered provider does not work directly in the service. There is a manager who is the designated person in charge and assists across the rooms as required.
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.

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	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 manager who was present on the day of the inspection.

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 of the regulation is met.

The manager is the daily designated person in charge. There is a second named staff member employed who will be available to deputise as required.

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 of the regulation is met.

The registered provider is familiar with the Child Care Act 1991 (early years services) Regulations 2016, Schedule 6, Staff: Child ratios and will ensure that there are always adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service, including the requirement to have two staff on the premises at all times.

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—

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

Requirement met:	<p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The playrooms provide sufficient space for the children to play. The rooms were warm, clean and lit by natural light. The rooms were set up and equipped with toys and materials suitable for the ages and stage of development of the children using the room.</p> <p>(3)(a)(b)</p> <p>The outdoor play area consists of spaces enclosed to the rear of the playschool, including all weather grassy areas, soft surfaces, football areas and a variety of toys, materials and equipment. The manager has plans to further develop the outdoor spaces.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(1)(b)</p> <p>Provisions were not in place for children to rest or sleep while attending the service. There was no identified area in the rooms for the children to rest or sleep. There was no bed linen available. One sleep mattress had been purchased.</p>
Response from the provider:	<p>Cosy rest areas were developed in the playrooms. A bed and identified area for sleep is now available. Pictures submitted.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement of the regulation is met.</p>

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.

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Requirement met:	<p>Parents currently supply the food/snacks for the children attending on a sessional basis.</p> <p>The parents will be asked to supply additional food and snacks for children who will attend for part time and full day care.</p> <p>All foods/lunchboxes will be stored in fridges in the playrooms and kitchen. The staff will reheat any hot food supplied for the children by parents.</p> <p>The manager has engaged directly with the Environment Health Office (EHO) to ensure food safety standards, and their practices are suitable.</p>
Requirements not met:	<p>The healthy eating policy requires development to include the information for parents to ensure the food and nutritional needs of children attending part time and full day care are met.</p>
Response from registered provider:	<p>The healthy eating policy was updated to reflect the additional requirements.</p> <p>Policy submitted.</p>
Summary comment:	<p>The requirement of the regulation is met.</p>

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:	<p>Infection control:</p> <p>Warm water for hygienic hand washing is available and thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C. The playrooms were clean and well maintained, with cleaning schedules ready.</p> <p>Administration of medication:</p> <p>There is a policy on the safe administration of medications to children attending the service.</p> <p>General safety:</p> <p>The entrance door to the building is secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining access to the building.</p>
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Requirement not met:	<p>General safety:</p> <p>The entrance gate to the outdoor area was not secured safely.</p> <p>The parent handbook needs to be developed to provide parents with information about the service and the services provided.</p> <p>Administration of medication:</p> <p>There was no designated area for the safe storage of medication.</p> <p>There is no method available for the recording of the administration of medication to children.</p> <p>Infection control:</p> <p>The service did not have any plans in place for the laundering of bed linen.</p>
Response from the provider:	<p>The gate is now secured.</p> <p>The parent handbook was developed.</p> <p>A medication storage press was purchased and installed.</p> <p>A washing machine was purchased and installed.</p> <p>Photographs were submitted.</p>
Summary comment:	<p>The requirement of the regulation is met.</p>

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:	<p>The requirement of the regulation is met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>Documented evidence was available to demonstrate that eight staff were currently trained in FAR first aid for children and will be present on the premises.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b)</p> <p>A suitable and equipped first aid box was available on the premises and stored in an easily accessible place for staff.</p>
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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 firefighting 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:	(1)(a) Record sheets are available on the premises for recording of fire drills and the registered provider is familiar with the requirement to carry out monthly fire drills. (b) Fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms are present, and contracts are in place for the regular service and maintenance of same.
Requirement not met:	(4) A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was not displayed in the playrooms.
Response from registered provider:	Fire evacuation notices are now in place. Photographs submitted.
Summary Comment:	The requirement of the regulation is met.

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 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.
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

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- (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 manager stated that the premises appeared to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

The front door entrance to the building is safe and secure.

(c)

The playrooms were lit and ventilated by natural light through openable windows on external walls, supplemented by artificial lighting when needed. The toilets were ventilated through openable windows. The service is heated with oil heating.

(d)

The playrooms were clean, well maintained and in good repair.

(e)

The service has adequate sanitary accommodation for the number of children and staff who will be present with children's toilets, disability toilet and separate staff toilet available. There are four toilets and one nappy changing unit available for the children and one staff toilet on the premises.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(2)

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There is adequate space available to children. The service consisted of two playrooms which had sufficient space to accommodate the number of proposed children.

Bright Stars was measured at 76.2 sq. meters.

Little Buddies was measured at 40.2 sq. meters.