

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015TY160

Name of Service Wonder Years Playschool

Address of Service: St. Peter & Pauls National School, Kickham St, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Email Address: wonderyearsplayschool@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Patricia Whelan

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

Proposed change: Change of Address to St. Peter & Pauls National School, Kickham Street, Clonmel, Tipperary. E91NF43.

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Address - St. Peter & Pauls National School, Kickham Street, Clonmel, Tipperary. E91NF43.
Telephone number of service – 0861268658

Registered change: Address - St. Peter & Pauls National School, Kickham Street, Clonmel, Tipperary. E91NF43.
Telephone number of service – 0861268658

Date of Inspection: 1 6 0 8 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: Norma Thornton

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child & Family Agency,
Athy Road, Carlow.

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status: Registered Part-Time & Sessional service for 22 children
Date of Registration 04 September 2024

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



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	Wonder Years Playschool is a registered sessional and part-time service located in Clonmel town in Tipperary. A sessional service is offered from 8:50am to 11:50am and a part-time service from 8:50am to 1:50pm. The service caters for children aged between 2 to 6 years of age.
Premises	The registered provider proposes to move the service to a new location in a classroom located within the St. Peter & Paul's National School, on Kickham Street. The classroom is in the one of the school buildings located to the back of the school and has integrated sanitary facilities, a messy play area and direct access to a designated outdoor play area.
Staffing	The registered provider proposes that there will be three staff members working directly with the children in attendance at the service including the registered provider. All staff members hold qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care at Level 5, 6, and 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
Methodology	<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</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	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 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 registered provider is the designated person in charge daily. A named person is proposed 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.

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

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

(1) The registered provider shall ensure that there will be at least three qualified staff members working directly with the early years children.

(8)(b)(c) Not applicable, as the registered provider intends to always have at least two adults on the premises.

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:

- (1)(a) The proposed new classroom has been developed with clear identifiable areas of interest such as a kitchen/ home corner, rest and reading area, construction and transport area, art and creativity area and a large section with vinyl flooring and a sink at the back of the classroom for sensory and messy play. Each of the interest areas were observed to be adequately resourced with a variety of age-appropriate play materials and equipment.
- (b) There was a designated rest area where the children could choose to relax and read.
- (2) The classroom had direct access out onto a secured tarmacadam area which provided adequate space for the children to enjoy outdoor play. The area contained painted ground murals for games such as hopscotch, snakes and ladders, and wall puzzles.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 registered provider ensured that an adequate, suitable healthy eating policy was in place in the service. This is communicated to parents at the time of their child's registration and enrolment in the service.

It is proposed that a drinks station will be positioned on a low-level accessible table for the children to have constant access to drinking water.

A refrigerator will be provided in the classroom, for the safe storage of children's lunches and perishable food items.

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:

General Safety.

1. The main door to the service was secured with a keypad system.
2. The emergency door in the service was clearly lit and unobstructed.
3. The registered provider demonstrated that a risk assessment of the outdoor play area was carried out and documented daily.
4. There was a designated safe and secure storage area for cleaning materials and equipment, which was inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control.

1. Drinking water from the public water supply is readily available and accessible to the children and staff.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

2. Liquid hand soap and paper hand towelling were observed in both children's toilets and in the designated staff toilet.
3. The registered provider demonstrated that there were daily cleaning schedules of the service facilities and equipment, which there was a documented record of.

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 as evidenced by the following.

(1) Documented evidence was available to demonstrate staff members had completed the approved first aid responder (FAR) paediatric course, the certificates for which, were currently in date and on file.

The staff roster indicated that there would always be at least one staff member trained in FAR onsite during the service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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:	<p>(1)(a) The inspector observed that a record was available for the recording of monthly fire drills carried out in the service.</p> <p>(b) A maintenance record was available for review, recording the maintenance of firefighting equipment. The firefighting equipment was recorded as having been serviced in January 2024.</p> <p>The fire detection alarm system was recorded as having been serviced on the 10 July 2024.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the classroom.</p>
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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:	The requirement is met. A certificate of current insurance was available for inspection and documented that there was insurance cover available for 22 preschool children to attend a part-time service.
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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) The registered provider stated that there were no issues identified in relation to the building structure.

(b) The entrance door to the school building where the classroom was located was well secured to prevent any children exiting unsupervised and to prevent any unauthorised persons from entering the service.

(c) The service was naturally lit with several large windows. The natural light available was supplemented by seven long ceiling lights, each with a protective cover. All the windows could be opened to provide natural ventilation. Heating was provided by an oil fuelled heating system with radiators which were wall mounted and inaccessible to the children.

(d) There were cleaning schedules and records available demonstrating that the service was cleaned daily and maintained and repaired as required.

(e) There were two designated children’s toilets, each with a hand wash basin, which were naturally ventilated with high windows. A separate designated staff toilet was available.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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:

(1) There is adequate and clear floor space available in the new classroom for up to 22 early years children to attend the early years service.

(4)(a)(b) There is a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space available for each of the 22 early years children proposed to attend the sessional early years service.

There is at least a minimum of 2.35 square metres for each of the 22 early years children that may remain in the service to attend the part-time service.

The total clear floor space available in the new proposed classroom is 71 square metres.