

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015WD001

Name of Service: Little Buddies Creche

Address of Service: 5 Cross Roads, Portlaw, Co Waterford

Email Address: littlebuddiesportlaw@outlook.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms Alice Norris

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" 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 in Age Profile: From 0-6 years to 1-6 years.
Change in Number of Children Accommodated: From 37 to 41.
Change in Number of Staff Employed: From 5 to 6

Proposed Number of Children: 41

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Increase in age profile to 1-6 for 41 children with an increase in staff from 5 to 6.

Registered change: Change in Age Profile: From 0-6 years to 1-6 years.
Change in Number of Children Accommodated: From 37 to 41.
Change in Number of Staff Employed: From 5 to 6.

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

Inspection undertaken by: M. Ryan

Title: E.Y.I Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Community Care Centre,
HSE Buildings,
Cork Road, Waterford City.

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care/Part Time/Sessional Service for 41 Children
Date of Registration	3 rd July 2024

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>Little Buddies Crèche is a privately owned full day care service first established in 2003. The present registered provider leased the premises in 2019. The service is situated on a working farm located approximately three kilometers from Portlaw village Co Waterford. Little Buddies Creche presently offers one morning session for the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme from 09:00hrs to 12:00hrs and is open for full day care from 08:00hrs to 18:00hrs Monday to Friday. The registered provider is seeking registration to increase the numbers from 37 to 41 by changing the age range from 0-6 to 1-6 in the full day care service.</p>
Premises	<p>The childcare service is a purposefully designed and refurbished old stone farm building. It is a two-story dormer building, with preschool room upstairs and an open plan room downstairs for the younger children. The service accommodates a full catering kitchen, a nappy changing, toilets, a sleep room, office and storage rooms. The children's outdoor play facilities are adjacent to the premises.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider is the manager and part of the staff compliment who holds a level 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education. The service currently employs five childcare staff and registered provider proposes to employ one further staff member for the addition in childcare numbers.</p>
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>

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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 registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment	
<i>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—</i> <i>(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.</i>	
Requirement met:	(1)(a) The registered provider /manager was the designated person in charge and the service had a named person who is able to deputise as required.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels	
<i>(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.</i>	
Requirement met:	(1) The registered provider proposed to have an additional staff member employed which will be sufficient for the additional number of children.

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.*
- (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*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The room seeking additional numbers and change in age range was an open plan area for toddlers and babies and partitioned by built in furniture and gates to separate the crawling babies from the older toddlers. The registered provider proposed to no longer take babies from 0 to 1 year of age. On the day the gates were open and the whole area was well laid out and well resourced. Consideration had been given to the age and stages of development of children and for the younger children to be accommodated in the area nearer the sleep room.

There was ample space in each area for children to play, explore and work together in small groups. There was large variety and supply of age-appropriate handheld play items available on child accessible shelving. These included tabletop activities and toys

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	<p>such as tractors, trucks and diggers. A cosy cubby was designed into the space under stairs. There was a role play area with kitchen and construction opportunities, sensory messy play area with a large sand tray. This room had numerous activities such as sound making, popup and activity cubes.</p> <p>(b) Each room had soft areas with the provision of rubber soft foam platforms/mats. A designated sleep room was available off the childcare room. There were four cots available for children under two years of age and four low-level beds for children over the age of two years who required sleep.</p> <p>(3)</p> <p>(a) a large outdoor play space opened from the creche from the southern aspect of the building. This space had been covered with soft fall all weather surface which provided ample opportunities for exercise and play. There was an ample supply of different ride on toys such as scooters and tractors that proved popular with the children on the day. The outdoor area was further enhanced by the farm experience such as hens and donkeys in the adjacent field.</p> <p>The service had an indoor/outdoor room which was erected in the outdoor play space during the Covid pandemic period. The new room was enclosed from all sides with no windows and therefore provided considerable shelter. Supplies of giant Lego and large rubber blocks were available for floor play in this room. This indoor/outdoor had children’s tables and chairs, and storage space for children’s wellingtons, waterproof pull-ups, and boxes of outdoor toys</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(1)(b)</p> <p>There was no designated sleep area/arrangements for children over two years of age.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>(1)(b)</p> <p>The registered provider stated in the response that there were arrangements now in place with a new area created and designated for rest specifically for children over two years of age.</p>

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	Numerous photographs were submitted to the Inspectorate on 26 June 2024 of the new designated area for rest. These demonstrated a new colourful large floor mat and large canopy both used to define and contain the area as well as absorbing sound. Stackable beds were set up in the area verifying how the area was cosy and calm for children's rest needs.
Summary Comment:	The requirements of the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 has been met as per the evidence submitted on 26 June 2024.

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:	A private catering company provided the main meal of the day and the tea in the afternoon. Parents provide the snacks. There was a full catering kitchen on the premises that had ample refrigeration storage for children's snacks provided by parents. There was a healthy eating policy for the service.
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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>General Safety.</p> <p>The service has taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending:</p> <p>The external play area was secured from the surrounding buildings with fencing, stone walls and a gate at the entrance to prevent children gaining unsupervised access to the surrounding farm. The main front door was secured by a locking system that was out of children's reach which restricted children from exiting the building unsupervised.</p>
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A low handrail was provided on the stairs, and a safety gate was installed at the bottom of the stairs. Warm water at the taps available to the children was thermostatically controlled. All doors throughout the premises were fitted with finger guards. All electrical sockets were fitted with safety covers.

Infection control

The service has an infection prevention and control policy in place. Warm water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were available to support hygienic handwashing.

The service, materials and equipment were well maintained and clean. There was a cleaning schedule in place which detailed the frequency and method of cleaning of toys, equipment, fixtures, fittings, and surfaces.

Safe Sleep:

The registered provider has ensured that an adequate safe sleep policy is in place. Staff are familiar with safe sleep guidelines. And posters on these guidelines were displayed around the sleep room as reminders for staff. The recorded temperature of the sleep room on the day was 19.5°C

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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:

- (1)
Certification was available which confirmed that all of the staff working in the service had current First Aid Responder training.
- (2)
(a) (b) A first aid box was located out of children’s reach in the main playroom.

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) There was provision of a template form for recording proposed monthly fire drills.
(b) Firefighting equipment was available on the premises and there was a record demonstrating that it was serviced in May 2023. The smoke alarm system was last serviced 4 February 2024.
- (4) A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was available. A designated assembly point in the event of a fire had been chosen.

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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:

There was documented evidence that the registered provider for the service had secured insurance for the proposed number of 41 children on a full day care basis pending registration of the change.

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:

(a) The building was a refurbished old stone farm building. It had a dormer style upstairs with preschool room and an open plan room downstairs for the younger children. The building had ample storage space. The floor covering in the care room was a quality linoleum. The building was wheelchair accessible with the provision of a permanent ramp. The building appeared to be in good structural repair. The service was serviced by a septic tank waste disposal system. The water source was from a public supply.

(b) A safe and secure box for medications was available and kept on a high shelf in the kitchen that was inaccessible to children. The main door into the service was fitted with secure locks positioned at a high level out of children’s reach.

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	<p>(c) The room seeking re-registration had two large low-level double-glazed windows which provided adequate natural light. The care room had five strip fluorescent lights in the room with protective covering. The room had controlled underfloor heating.</p> <p>(d) The premises and play equipment were kept in clean and good repair. The internal walls on the premises had been recently painted in a cream colour that gave the service an inviting freshness.</p> <p>(e) There were two children’s toilets with wash hand basins upstairs off the preschool room, and a further children’s toilets and nappy changing unit in the sanitary area downstairs. A staff toilet and wash hand basin were also available downstairs, therefore there was adequate and suitable sanitary facilities for this proposed change in circumstances.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(c) The two windows in the room seeking reregistration were unable to open and therefore compromised ventilation to the room.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(c) The registered provider stated in the response that the two windows in the room seeking registration were now functioning and fully openable.</p> <p>The registered provider submitted a video to the inspectorate on 28 June 2024. This video demonstrated that the two windows were openable and therefore ensured the room was able to be ventilated from the outside air.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirements of the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 have been met as per the evidence submitted on 28 June 2024.</p>

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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:

(1)

Room Name	Age Range	Type of Service	Floor Space Available	Number of Children space will accommodate
Total open plan care room on the ground floor	1-3 years	FDC	53.05m ²	The rooms will accommodate a total of 19 children on a FDC basis from 1 to 3 years of age.
Upstairs room.	3-5 years	sessional	48.8. m ²	This room will accommodate a total of 22 children on a FDC basis.

(2)

Adequate clear floor space was available in the open plan downstairs care room seeking re-registration to accommodate 8 children from 1 to 2 years of age and 11 children from 2 to 3 years of age on a full day care basis. The room upstairs had sufficient space to accommodate 22 children aged 3 to 6 years on a full day care basis. Therefore the building can accommodate a total of 41 children.

(3) Not applicable as the registered provider had no proposal to operate a sessional service.

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(4) Not applicable as the registered provider had no proposal to operate a sessional or a drop-in service.

(5) Not applicable as the registered provider had no proposal to operate a temporary service.