

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015WD018

Name of Service Cappoquin Childcare Facility

Address of Service: Millstreet, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford, P51 E2NV

Email Address: cappcomdev@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Denis McCarthy

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: Proposal to increase the number of children from 69 to 86

Proposed Number of Children: 86 at any one time

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Increase number of children to 86 children at any one time.

Registered change: Change in number of children from 69 to 86 children

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

Inspection undertaken by: Aileen Bradshaw

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Community Care Office, Cork Rd., 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, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 86 Children
Date of Registration	28 th 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	Cappoquin Childcare Facility is a non-profit early years service based in a community centre in the town of Cappoquin in west Co Waterford. The service offers full-day, part-time and sessional care for up to 69 children aged 0 to 6 years. It operates from 8:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday. The service proposes to increase the number of children from 69 to 86.
Premises	There are now five care rooms, a Baby room, a Wobbler room, a Toddler room, two Preschool rooms and two dedicated sleep rooms. The Pre-school rooms are in the new extension, which has just been completed. The service also has a kitchen, staff room and sanitary areas for both staff and children. There is a secure rooftop outdoor space which has direct access from the Toddler room and the main hallway.
Staffing	The service is managed by a voluntary Board of Management. The Board employs a total of 24 staff members, including relief and auxiliary staff. The registered provider does not work directly in the service, and a member of the Board of Management was available to the inspector on the day.
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 member of the Board of Management, the 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

(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. (1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a person who can deputise if required. The registered provider does not work directly with the children.

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 proposes to have 20 early years staff caring for 86 children at all times. An additional three relief staff are available if required.

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 was met.

(1)(a)(b)

The layout of the rooms allows the children the space and freedom to move around and choose their activity. Each of the care rooms have designated areas of interest, for example: desktop activities, art and craft spaces including chalkboards, a paint easel, and an art table. Children’s imaginative play is supported by dress-up clothes, home corners with accessories, and small world play equipment.

Each room has a wide variety of books, water and sand trays, a large floor area for construction, and activity trays which are used to support the curriculum. The tabletop activities are attractively displayed and available to the children on low shelving. Some examples are threading, construction, and connecting materials.

The equipment and toys are stored on low-level shelving and accessible to the children. There are sufficient tables and chairs to accommodate children to sit and eat their snack or work independently with tabletop materials. The book areas are situated away from the main play area and are furnished with a large rug, low couches and soft chairs. The person in charge explained how the children will use this space if they wish to take a break from their play. There are two dedicated sleep

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rooms with cots, low beds, and bedding available should a child need to rest during the day.

(2)(b)

The person in charge described how the children have daily access to the outdoor area, which is managed using a rota system. This space is equipped with toys and materials which support children's physical development, including slides, wheeled toys, and ball games.

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 is met.

The person in charge stated that families provide snacks for the children attending on a sessional basis. Children who attend the service on a part-time or full-time basis are served dinner and snacks provided by the service. There is a fully equipped kitchen on the premises, and each room has a fridge to store any perishable food brought to the service by the children. There is drinking water available to the children throughout the day.

The healthy eating policy described how meal times are a social occasion and also included ideas for healthy snacks and lunches.

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 is met.

- The registered provider has an adequate system in place to limit the risk of unauthorised entry or exit from the building.

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- There is a cleaning schedule in place, and the cleaning products are stored out of reach of the children.
- Liquid soap and disposable towels are available for the children's use.
- The tables and chairs in the care room, which will be used for tabletop activities and mealtimes, are at the appropriate height for the age of children accommodated in the room.
- All cables and flexes are adequately secured to reduce the potential risks to a child. Electrical sockets are covered if not in use.
- Shelving and storage units are stable and secure.
- Exit doors were unobstructed during the inspection, and the emergency lighting is mounted over these doors.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to the children.
- The outdoor areas are secure within the grounds of the school and the junior yard at the side of the building has a locked gate.

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) The person in charge and 21 staff on the premises are trained to the First Aid Responder level and are available to the children at all times.

(2)(a)(b) The main first aid box was prominently available to all staff, with smaller first aid kits in each care room.

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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:

(1)(a)(b)

Records of monthly fire drills are available for review by the inspector. Evidence reviewed demonstrated that the firefighting equipment was serviced in June 2025, and the smoke alarms were maintained in June 2025.

(4)

Procedures for the evacuation of the building in case of fire were displayed in each room and the hallways. The evacuation meeting point was signposted outside the building.

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.

The service has insurance to cover a maximum of 95 children on a part-time basis. The expiry date on the insurance certificate is 27 March 2026

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 person in charge confirmed that they knew of no structural defects and that the building is structurally sound.
- (b) The main entrance door to the school has a keypad and an intercom system, and this adequately secures the entrance to the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the premises. The person in charge described how work is to be completed over the coming weeks to complete the new main entrance in the extension.
- (c) The preschool rooms have large windows which provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting, which is covered. The windows could be opened to allow the circulation of fresh air.
- (d) The preschool rooms are in a clean condition, and there is a cleaning schedule.
- (e) The sanitary area is adjacent to the preschool rooms, and an additional nappy changing space is being completed in the coming weeks. There are separate staff toilets. warm water, liquid soap, and disposable paper towels were provided in the sanitary facilities.

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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.*
- (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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The proposed registered provider has allowed for adequate, clear floor space to be available to allow children free movement to work and play.

(2)

There is adequate, clear floor space in the service to accommodate 86 children attending on a full-time basis.