

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2015WD028

Name of Service It's A Child's Life

Address of Service: Barron Hall, Chapel Road, Stradbally, Waterford. X42Y398.

Email Address: itsachildslife@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ruth Crowley

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input 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 to a new classroom and increase numbers to 33

Proposed Number of Children: 33

Recommended Change Following Inspection: New classroom approved, max number of early years children that can be accommodated in the new classroom at any one time for a sessional service = 22.

Registered change: Change in classroom, number of children to remain at 22

Date of Inspection: 2 1 0 7 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: Norma Thornton

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Childrens Services Regulation,
Tusla Child and 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 Sessional Service for 22 Children

Date of Registration 25th August 2023

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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	<p>It's A Child's Life is a sessional early years service located in the village of Stradbally, in south county Waterford. The service operates from the local community hall known as Barron Hall, providing an early childhood care and education (ECCE) programme to children aged 2 to 6 years. The service's opening hours are from 09:00 to 12:00, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year, in conjunction with the ECCE scheme.</p>
Premises	<p>The service previously operated from the main hall of the community building. It is now proposed that the service moves to a designated purpose-built classroom, at the back of the building. This classroom is designated for the sole use of the early years service and has direct access to the spacious outdoor grass play area, at the back of the building.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are four staff employed in the service, including the registered provider. All staff members working directly with the early years children hold at least a minimum level 5 early childhood care and education qualification.</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> <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.</p>

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	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 who was 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:

The registered provider is the designated person in charge daily. A named person is proposed to deputise as required.

The requirement has been met.

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:

The requirement is met.

(1) The registered provider shall ensure that there will be at least three qualified staff members working directly with the early years children. A fourth adult is available to provide extra support and relief for staff breaks or leave as required.

(8)(b)(c) Not applicable, as the registered provider intends to have at least two adults 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—*
- (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.*
- (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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a) The proposed new classroom has been developed with clear identifiable areas of interest such as a home corner, cosy corner, construction corner, sensory area, creative area, small world figurine area and personal care and drinks station for the children to use. Each of the areas was observed to be adequately resourced with a variety of age-appropriate play materials and equipment.

(b) There was a designated spacious cosy area where the children could choose to relax and read. This was furnished with a child sized couch, soft floor rug and cushions.

(4) The outdoor play space is secured with a high metal gate, brick wall and child sized coloured wooden fencing. The outdoor log cabin and equipment provided in the outdoor area was observed to be safe and well maintained.

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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:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A drinks station was observed on a low-level accessible table for the children to have constant access to drinking water.</p> <p>A refrigerator was available in the adjacent kitchen area, for the safe storage of children’s lunches and perishable food items.</p>
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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>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>General Safety.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The main door to the service was secured with a thumb lock internally, the side entrance to the outdoor play space was secured with a high locked metal gate. All door and gate keys were readily available to the staff working in the service. 2. All emergency doors in the service were clearly lit and unobstructed.
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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.
2. Liquid hand soap and paper hand towelling were observed in both children's toilets and in the designated staff toilet.
3. There were designated hand sanitising stations, located just inside the main entrance door and at several locations in the service.
4. 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 that one staff member had completed the approved first aid responder paediatric course, the certificate for which, was currently in date and on file. This staff member was on site during the hours of operation.

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	The three other staff working in the service held certificates in basic paediatric first aid training which were also observed to be in date.
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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:	<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 fire detection alarm system was recorded as having been serviced on the 06 July 2023.</p> <p>(4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in three points within the service. A fire assembly point was observed in the outdoor space at the back of the building.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(1)(b) It was observed by the inspector that the fire extinguisher labels demonstrated that the last service recorded was May 2020.</p> <p>There was no further documentation available to demonstrate that the fire extinguishers in the service had been serviced within the last year.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>The registered provider submitted the following response:</p> <p>The registered provider spoke with the hall committee regarding this issue and was reassured that the fire equipment and extinguisher are new, that were put into the new classroom. All other extinguishers were serviced during the time of this new installation. The registered provider advised that the extinguishers need updated stickers, and the</p>

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	committee are following this up. The registered provider can send photographic evidence once available. Attached: invoice for the service of fire equipment and alarms. This was done in July 2023.
Summary Comment:	The requirement has been 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. A certificate of current insurance was available for inspection and documented that there was insurance available for 22 early years children to attend a sessional service. The expiry date on the certificate was documented as 27 March 2024.
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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—

- 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 inspector observed that the premises was clean and well maintained. The registered provider stated that there were no issues identified in relation to the building structure. (b)The entrance door to the premises and the side entrance gate connecting the front of the building to the outdoor play area were well secured to prevent any children exiting unsupervised and to prevent any unauthorised persons from entering he service.
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	<p>(c) The service was naturally lit with several large windows. The natural light available was supplemented by flush ceiling spotlights, 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.</p> <p>(d) There were cleaning schedules and records available demonstrating that the service was cleaned daily and maintained and repaired as required.</p> <p>(e) There were two existing designated children's toilets, each with a hand wash basin, which were mechanically ventilated. A separate designated staff toilet was provided, and two additional children's toilets were in the progress of being completed on the other side of the corridor, directly opposite the proposed new classroom.</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.*
- (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:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1) There is adequate and clear floor space available in the new classroom for up to 22 early years children to attend a sessional early years service.</p> <p>(3) There is a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space available for each of the 22 children in the new classroom.</p>
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