

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015WD076

Name of Service St Joseph's Childcare Centre

Address of Service: 6-7 Lower Yellow Road, Waterford City, Waterford, X91 CK6N

Email Address: rachel.english@svp.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Con O'Riordan

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 number of children from 85 to 88
Change in age profile from 0 - 6 years to 1- 6 years

Proposed Number of Children: 88

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in number of children from 85 to 88 (Max 86 full day/part-time) children
Change in Age Profile of children from 0 - 6 years to 1- 6 years

Registered change: Change in number of children from 85 to 88(Max 86 full day/part-time) care
Change in age profile from 0-6 years to 1-6 years

Date of Inspection: 1 9 0 9 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: Edel Cullen

Title: Early Years Inspector

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

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

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Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 88(Max 86 Full Day/Part - Time) Children
Date of Registration	7th October 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	St. Joseph's Childcare and Community Centre opened in 1997 and is located in inner-city Waterford. The service operates full daycare under the auspices of the society of St. Vincent's de Paul. The service participates in the Early Childhood care and Education scheme. Opening hours are from 08:45hrs to 17:30hrs Monday to Friday for children ages 0 to 6 years of age. The service currently closes its early years rooms at 17:15hrs. A school age programme is available for children from 5 to 12 years of age until 17:30hrs. The service proposes increasing the minimum age requirement to 1 year old.
Premises	The service operates from refurbished terraced houses with a large purpose-built extension. The service's extension has five early years rooms, two sleep rooms, sensory room, a full catering kitchen, adult and children's toilet facilities and a nappy changing room. The two outdoor play areas are safely secured and situated adjacent to the childcare rooms. The older building presently accommodates office space, meeting rooms, staff kitchen facilities and further sanitary accommodation.
Staffing	The service employs a manager, deputy manager and currently twenty early years staff. Six staff members are employed through Community Employment Schemes. The service also employs one maintenance person and one full-time chef.
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 administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff

	<p>Child and Family Agency Act 2013</p> <p>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016</p>	<p>Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)</p>	<p>2 of 7</p>
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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 service manager is the designated person in charge, and the assistant manager is the named deputy present onsite.

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 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 adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service.

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.

(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

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The service comprises of five early years rooms that are well laid out and well resourced. The furniture and equipment have been used to create well defined interest areas with ample space in each area for children to play, explore and work together in pairs and small groups. Consideration has been given to the age and stages of development of children in each of the rooms. Interest areas included: a cosy library area, role play area, construction area, sensory messy play area and creative areas.

(b) There are designated areas in each room with couches and soft furnishings, where children can rest and relax during the day. Designated sleep rooms are available off the wobbler and toddler rooms. There were thirteen cots available for children under 2 years of age and adequate numbers of low-level beds for children over the age of 2 years who required sleep.

(3)(a) The service has two separate outdoor areas to the side and rear of the premises. To the rear of the premises there is an enclosed all weather surface area, partially

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sheltered by a canopy. This area can be directly accessed by children in the junior and senior toddler rooms. A second small enclosed outdoor space is accessed directly off the junior ECCE room.

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: Children attending on a full day care basis all food and drink are prepared onsite by the service chef. A seasonal menu is available.
Children attending for the ECCE hours only have a snack supplied by parents and guardians daily. There is a refrigerator available in each classroom for storage of 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:
The entrance door to the service is secured with a keypad and buzzer entry system while children are in attendance to ensure no unauthorised persons can gain access or children cannot exit unsupervised. The external play areas are secured with high level fencing. A storage room and high-level storage units have been identified for storage of hazardous materials such as cleaning products out of reach of children.

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 throughout the service.

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.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid

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- (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>(1) There are staff members currently trained in first aid for children employed in the service and consideration is given to the rostering of staff members to ensure a person is present on the premises during operational hours.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) Suitable and fully equipped first aid boxes were available on the premises and stored in an easily accessed central locations.</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 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:	<p>(1)(a) Records were available on the premises for recording of fire drills and the registered provider was familiar with the requirement to carry out monthly fire drills.</p> <p>(b) A record of firefighting equipment was available for inspection.</p> <p>(4) A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in each room and the fire assembly point had been identified.</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 service group insurance policy under the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul commenced on 01 November 2024 and will expire on 31 October 2025.
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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.

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Requirement met:	<p>(a) The premises is a refurbished terraced house with a large purpose-built extension. is a single storey building. The designated person in charge confirmed that they were not aware of any structural defects.</p> <p>(b) The premises was safe and secure. The access points were kept secured to prevent unauthorised access. The outdoor area was enclosed and gated. Access to the premises were via a securely locked door and external gate.</p> <p>(c) The rooms were well lit by natural light. The windows were openable to allow for natural ventilation. Lighting was supplemented by artificial light.</p> <p>(d) The rooms, fixtures and fittings appeared to be clean, well maintained and in a good state of repair. There were cleaning schedules in place for the service.</p> <p>(e) The service had five toilet cubicles and four wash hand basins, available in the corridor off the classrooms and one cubicle with a toilet and wash hand basin off the senior ECCE room for use by early years children. Additional cubicles each with a toilet and wash hand basin were assigned as staff and accessible toilets on the ground and first floor of the premises. A designated nappy changing room with one nappy changing unit and wash hand basin was available, along with an overflow nappy changing facility in the main children's bathroom. This was sufficient accommodation for the children attending the service and the staff members.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

	<p>(1) <i>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.</i></p> <p>(2) <i>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.</i></p> <p>(4) <i>Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(a) <i>a sessional pre-school service, and</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(b) <i>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).</i></p>
Requirement met:	<p>(1) The early years rooms provide adequate clear floor space for the 85 children the service is currently registered for.</p> <p>(2) There is sufficient clear floor space in the existing early years rooms for up to 90 children attending on a mix of sessional and full day care basis, of which a maximum of 86 children can attend for full day care hours at any one time.</p>

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Room	Space available	Age Range of children attending	Maximum capacity
Wobbler Room	39.3 m ²	1-2 years	14
Junior Toddler Room	44m ²	1-3 years	17
Senior Toddler Room	40m ²	2-3 years	17
Junior ECCE Room	37.4m ²	3-6 years	20 sessional / 16 FDC
Senior ECCE Room	89.2 m ²	3-6 years	22