

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D.:** TU2015WD092

**Name of Service** Tip Toes Community Childcare Centre

**Address of Service:** Old Tramore Road, Kilcohan, Waterford, X91 ER04

**Email Address:** tiptoesmanager18@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Rebecca Beegan

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

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Change in the number of children from 55 to 65 children Change in the number of staff currently employed from 12(as per our national directory of services) to 16 staff
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	65
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	Number of staff: 16 Number of children cared for: 65
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in the number of children from 55 to 65 children Change in the number of staff 12 to 16 staff

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	4	0	6	2	0	2	5
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**Inspection undertaken by:** A. Bradshaw

**Title:** Early years inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Community Care Buildings, Cork Road, Waterford

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



### Rationale for Inspection:

**Proposed Change of Circumstance**

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	<b>Registered Full Day, Part-Time &amp; Sessional Service for 65 Children</b>
<b>Date of Registration</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> June 2025</b>

### 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	The service is located on the outskirts of Waterford city and is part of the Sacred Heart Family Resource Centre and is registered to accommodate children aged 0-6 years. It is currently accommodating children from 18 months to 6 years. This service provides a full-day, part-time, and sessional service. It is currently registered to care for a maximum of 55 children and is proposing to increase this number by 10 children to 65 children. A school-age service is also provided in the afternoon.
<b>Premises</b>	The service is located in a single-storey, purpose-built facility in a residential area. There are four care rooms: the Daffodil room (2 years and 8 months to 5 years, sessional care), the Daisy room (18 months to 2 years and 8 months), the Buttercup room (18 months to 2 years and 8 months) and the Sunflower room (2 years and 8 months to 5 years). In addition, there are two sleep rooms, a sensory room, a staff room, and sanitary facilities for staff and children. There is also an office and staff training room, and a kitchen. An enclosed outdoor space is located to the rear of the premises, which is partitioned into three separate areas by fencing.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service employs a manager and a deputy manager. The registered provider does not work directly in the service. Staff members hold qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	The service proposed to increase the number of staff from 12 to 16.
<b>Methodology</b>	<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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the children, the person in charge, and the staff 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 stated that there is one of them on the premises at all times. The name of the designated person and the deputy designated person are displayed in the hallway.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.

(1) The registered provider stated that they would ensure that an adequate number of staff will be working directly with the children attending the service. There will be 16 staff caring for up to 65 children on a full-time basis.

### 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*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)(b) The layout of the furniture and fittings in each room allows children the opportunity and freedom to move around and choose their activity. They each have areas of interest defined with the use of furniture. For example, the play materials and space available for the children in the room include role play areas with dress up clothes, play kitchens with accessories, a library with a variety of books, tool benches and arts and craft stations. The tabletop activities are displayed and available to the children on low shelving.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Examples of the tabletop equipment available are puzzles, threading, construction, and connecting materials. There is floor matting in each room to accommodate large floor activities like construction toys and blocks.

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 area in the room is away from the main play area and is furnished with large soft mats and cushions where children rest or take a break from activities.

There are two cot rooms adjacent to the Daisy room and the Buttercup room. The Daisy sleep room has four cots, and the Buttercup room has six cots. There are low stackable beds available in both sleep rooms if older children require a rest. Each child had their individual bed linen and cellular blankets. These rooms can be darkened with window blinds and have digital thermometers to manage the ambience of the room for sleeping children.

(3)(a) The care rooms have direct access to the outdoor spaces in an enclosed garden surrounded by high railings. This is a grassed area with some soft surfacing and paving.

### 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 has been met.

The service supplies breakfast and the afternoon snack. Parents supply the children’s mid-morning snack and their lunch. Perishable food is stored in the kitchen. The service has a healthy eating policy, which includes information for parents regarding suggestions for healthy snacks. The manager stated that the policy will be updated to include information regarding parents supplying food that may require reheating. This policy also states that drinking water is available for the children throughout the day.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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 has been partially met.

- The main entrance door to the service is appropriately monitored. The electronically controlled system adequately secures the front of the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service. There is a buzzer system to unlock the doors. The garden exits are also secured.
- The tables and chairs in the care rooms, which will be used for tabletop activities and mealtimes, are at the appropriate height for the age of the children accommodated in the room.
- All storage of waste, both indoors and outdoors, and cleaning materials, is inaccessible to the children.
- There is a cleaning schedule in place, and the cleaning products are stored out of reach of the children
- Shelving and storage units are stable and secure.
- The waste bins in the building are pedal-operated.
- There is a storeroom in the building to store cleaning products and equipment.
- 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 area is secure with a high fence and locked gates.

#### Requirement not met:

1. The windows and glass doors in the building require visibility strips to prevent children from inadvertently running into them and causing themselves harm.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. An electrical socket in the sleep room adjacent to the Daisy room is accessible, creating a potential risk to children.</li> <li>3. The water was cold on the day of the inspection, which does not encourage effective hand washing.</li> <li>4. One of the nappy changing mats was too large for the nappy changing station, which may make a child uncomfortable while being changed.</li> </ol>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<p>The registered provider stated the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visibility stickers have been ordered and will be put on the glass in all Playrooms</li> <li>2. The stackable bed has been removed from the area and replaced with a storage unit covering the socket and is now inaccessible to children.</li> <li>3. A plumber has been contacted, and the issue has been repaired.</li> <li>4. A new nappy Changing mat has been ordered to replace the existing one.</li> </ol> <p>Evidence was submitted to support the actions outlined above.</p>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	<p>The actions submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance identified on inspection.</p>

### 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.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>(1) Four staff members are trained to the First Aid Responder level and are rostered to cover the opening hours of the service and are thereby available to the children at all times.</p> <p>(2) (a)(b) The First Aid box is stored in a press in the office and a second one in the kitchen room with conspicuous signage on the press door.</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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) A copy of the recent fire drills over the past six months are available.</p> <p>(1)(b) A record is available of the number, type, and maintenance of the fire extinguishers and smoke detection system of the service. Firefighting equipment was serviced on 30 May 2025, and the smoke alarms were serviced on the 27 June 2024.</p> <p>(4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the rooms and the assembly points are displayed in the front and rear of the building.</p>
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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

 An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	Child and Family Agency Act 2013 Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016	Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)	<b>8 of 11</b>
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# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.  The service has insurance to cover a maximum of 65 children on a full-time basis. The expiry date on the insurance certificate is 9 July 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been partially 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 is managed by an intercom system and keypad. The system in place adequately secures the entrance to the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the premises.  (c) The care rooms have openable windows which provide natural lighting. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting, which is covered and recessed and is flush with the ceiling. The rooms have a digital thermometer to support the maintenance of the optimal temperature for those using the room. The sanitary area has mechanical ventilation systems in addition to openable windows to provide adequate ventilation.  (e) The sanitary area is in the main hallway with five toilets and five hand-washing sinks. There are two separate staff toilets. There are two nappy changing stations with three handwashing sinks in this room.
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# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p>(d) While it is acknowledged that the care rooms were in a clean condition on the day of inspection, and a cleaning schedule is available in the care rooms to ensure regular cleaning of the service, some maintenance is required. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the sanitary area, the floor covering is coming away from the skirting.</li> <li>• Some of the children's couches and matting are worn, with the foam visible through the covering.</li> <li>• In the garden, timber furniture, fencing and borders are rotting, splintering and loose.</li> <li>• The grass is overgrown, covering the play mat at the timber platform in the garden.</li> <li>• Briars and brambles are growing through the railings and around the perimeter of the garden.</li> <li>• Wet cardboard is in the corner of the garden, covered with overgrown grass.</li> <li>• Grass and weeds are growing between the soft matting in the garden.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>(d) The registered provider stated the following:</p> <p>A maintenance contractor was employed to tidy the garden area and remove loose timbers. They also repair the skirting in the sanitary area.</p> <p>Two new children's couches have been ordered, and the mats have been replaced. In addition, risk assessments have been updated to include garden maintenance. Photographic evidence was submitted.</p>
<p><b>Summary Comment:</b></p>	<p>The actions submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance identified on inspection.</p>

### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play, and movement of children attending the service is adequate for the additional 10 full-time preschool children proposed.

(2)

<b>Room</b>	<b>Clear floor space</b>	<b>Age range</b>	<b>Proposed number of children</b>
<b>Daffodil room</b>	25.8 sqm	2 years and 8 months to 5 years	13 children for sessional hours
<b>Daisy room</b>	56.5 sqm	18 months to 2 years 8 months	15 children attending full-time
<b>Buttercup room</b>	48.4 sqm	18 months to 2 years and 8 months	15 children attending full-time
<b>Sunflower room</b>	49.3 sqm	2 years and 8 months to 5 years	22 children attending full-time