

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015WD099							
Name of Service	Williamstown Community Childcare Centre Ltd							
Address of Service:	Farronshoneen, Williamstown, Co Waterford							
Email Address:	williamstownchildcare@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Provider:	Sarah Doherty.							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓		
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	Change in age profile from 18 months to 6 years to 1 to 6 years							
Proposed Number of Children:	No change to the overall capacity of 75							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	The toddler room can cater for 17 children aged 1 to 2 years and the junior preschool room can cater for 16 children aged 2 to 3 years of age.							
Registered change:	Change in Age Profile from 18 months – 6 years to 1 – 6 years							
Date of Inspection:	3	0	0	7	2	0	2	4
Inspection undertaken by:	M. Ryan.							
Title:	Early years Inspector.							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Waterford Community Services, Cork Road, Waterford.							

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time, Sessional for 75 Children
Date of Registration	16 th August 2024

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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>Williamstown Community Childcare Centre opened in April 2007 and is located on the outskirts of Waterford city. The service is managed by a board of management. The service presently offers full day care and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme and the Community Childcare Subvention Schemes. Williamstown Community Childcare operates from 08.00hrs to 17.30hrs Monday to Friday. The service presently offers childcare for children 18 months to 5 years of age. The registered provider is seeking registration to change the age range from 18 months to 12 months in the full day care service.</p>
Premises	<p>The premises is a two-story building purpose built as a community childcare facility. The ground floor has two childcare rooms, one sleep room, a catering kitchen, adult and children's toilet facilities, laundry/ cleaning storage rooms and a nappy changing room. The first floor accommodates two pre-school rooms, office space, a meeting room, staff kitchen facilities, and further toilets for adults and children. There is ample storage space for buggies, toys and equipment and a separate room for chemicals and cleaning agents. The outdoor play area is safely secured at the rear of the building adjacent to the downstairs childcare rooms.</p>
Staffing	<p>The service employs a manager, an assistant manager and 17 part-time childcare staff. It has a further one staff member on a Community Employment Scheme and employs one part-time cleaner and two administrators. The service intends to have an additional staff member employed which will be sufficient for the change in the age range children proposed.</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</p>

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	<p>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

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:

(1)(a)

The manager is the designated person in charge and the service has a deputy manager as the named person who is able to deputise as required.

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:

(1)

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The manager proposes to have an additional staff member employed which will be sufficient for the change in the age range 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.
- (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:

1(a)

The toddler room is a large rectangular shaped room and is organised to ensure that there is ample space conducive to children learning to walk and move around with comfort. The children have access to activity sets, multicultural dolls, a floor play area, kitchen corner and a built-in stainless-steel trough for water/messy play and hand washing. The furniture is age-appropriate including toddler chairs and chairs for staff. There is a soft area with soft matting, pillows, and a long, large bean bag that could seat three to four children. There are baskets of play items with age-appropriate small toys. The tables are arranged in the center of the room.

The junior preschool room has low level tables and chairs suitable to the age and stage of development of the children proposing to use them. There is good quality timber play furniture arranged in the room so as to allow for well-defined areas of interest divided by child accessible shelving. This room has stocks of open-ended play materials such as blocks, plastic pipes, magnetic squares, and moon sand available in small trays.

(1)(b)

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Both rooms have adjacent sleep rooms. The toddler sleep room has 4 cots and 4 floor beds. The junior sleep room has 8 stackable beds available. There is storage cupboard space for children’s personalised sheets and blankets in each of these rooms.

(3)(a)

Outdoor area

There is a designated outdoor play space that is safe and securely fenced off from the surrounding houses. Both the toddler room and the junior preschool room have double doors that open into the outdoor area. The surface of the main play area is surfaced with sponge matting, there is a garden area with low concrete walls and grass that is suitable for the younger children as a separate outdoor space for this age group. The main large outdoor play area has an activity frame with slides and a climbing wall. There are supplies of trikes, and ride on toys for younger children. Since the last inspection the service has purchased good quality wooden outdoor kitchen, a large timber sand tray and balance beams.

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:

There is a healthy eating policy and a full catering kitchen for the service. A private catering company specializing in meals for children provides the main meal of the day and the tea in the afternoon for all children attending the service. There is a weekly menu plan available that can cater to children’s dietary requirements. Drinking water is available in both rooms.

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.

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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>Children cannot leave the area unsupervised as both doors for access into the building had keypad code intercom security systems. The external play area is safe and secure with a high concrete wall separating it from the residential houses and the busy roadway.</p> <p>A low handrail is provided on the stairs. Warm water at the taps available to the children is thermostatically controlled. All doors throughout the premises are fitted with finger guards. All electrical sockets are fitted with safety covers.</p> <p>Cleaning agents and other chemicals are stored in a separate cleaning storeroom inaccessible to children. All heat-emitting appliances are thermostatically controlled and covered with heater guards.</p> <p>Infection Control</p> <p>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 are well maintained and clean. There is a cleaning schedule in place that detailed the frequency and method of cleaning of toys, equipment, fixtures, fittings, and surfaces. Linen is laundered on the premises and stored in children’s individually labelled storage baskets in the sleep rooms.</p>
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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)

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	<p>Certification was available which confirmed that six staff are First Aid Responder trained.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b)</p> <p>First aid boxes are located out of children’s reach in each care room.</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 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)</p> <p>(a) A record in writing of fire drills indicated that the last fire drill took place on the premises on the 15 July 2024.</p> <p>(b) Firefighting equipment available on the premises was serviced on 15 March 2024. The smoke alarm system was last serviced on 15 November 2023.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are on the notice board in the main Hall.</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:	<p>An insurance quotation was submitted to the registration team prior to this inspection.</p> <p>The manager 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.</p>
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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:

- (a) The premises is a two-story building purpose built as a community childcare facility in 2007. The building appeared to be in good structural repair. The building had double glazed windows and doors throughout. The floor covering in the care room is a quality, Lino. The building was wheelchair accessible with the provision of a permanent ramp. The service was serviced by the public waste disposal system. The water source was from a public supply.
- (b) The main door into the service was fitted with secure locks positioned at a high level out of children’s reach.
- (c) All rooms on the lower level of the building had large low-level double-glazed windows which provided adequate natural light. The care rooms have strip fluorescent lights with protective covering. The building is heated by city gas.
- (d) The premises and play equipment were kept in clean and good repair. Some of the internal walls on the premises had been recently painted.
- (e) There is an adequate supply of adult and children’s toilets with wash hand basin both upstairs and downstairs. A large nappy changing room with nappy changing facilities is adequate for the proposed number of children needing nappy changing. Therefore, there are adequate and suitable sanitary facilities for this proposed change in circumstances.

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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.
- (a) 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).

Requirement met:

(1)

Room Name	Age Range	Type of Service	Floor Space Available	Number of Children space will accommodate
Toddler room	1-2 years	FDC	49.3m ²	This room will accommodate a total of 17 children on 1-2 years of age on a FDC basis
Junior preschool room	2-3 years	sessional	37.2m ²	This room will accommodate a total of 16 children 2-3 years of age on a sessional /FDC basis.

(2)

Adequate clear floor space was available in both downstairs care rooms to accommodate 17 children from 1 to 2 years of age and 16 children from 2 to 3 years of age on a full day care basis. There is no change to the previous capacity of these rooms.