

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015WH015

**Name of Service** Kidz Aloud

**Address of Service:** Ranaghan, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath

**Email Address:** tonette\_oneill@yahoo.co.uk

**Name of Registered Provider:** Antoinette O' Neill

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input 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"/>

**Proposed change:** Changing to a sessional service from a part time service operating from 09:15 to 12:15.  
Increase in number of children to 66

**Proposed Number of Children:** 66

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Sessional service for 66 children operating from 09:15 to 12:15.

**Registered change:** Change in service type from part time to sessional  
Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 50 to 66

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

**Inspection undertaken by:** C O' Connor Hughes

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, SAP office, St Loman's Campus,  
Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Sessional Service for 66 Children  
**Date of Registration** 18<sup>th</sup> July 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The age range of children currently enrolled in the service is 2 to 6 years.</p> <p>The service proposes to operate between the hours of 09:15 -12:15 on a Monday to Friday basis.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The Early Years' Service is located in a two- storey purpose-built premises with set down and parking areas to the front. Five pre-school rooms, a breakout room, a staff room, an office and a kitchen are provided. The service is located in Collinstown, Co. Westmeath.</p> <p>Two outdoor play areas divided into two play sections are attached to the premises.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>Six staff are employed in the service including the registered provider.</p>
<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>	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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 requirement was met.

(1)(a)

The proposed pre-school service has a named designated person in charge and deputy person in charge.

### 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 was met.

Six adults including the registered provider employed in the service will work with the proposed sixty-six children to ensure the correct adult:child ratio is maintained 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 was met.

(1)(a)

The pre-school rooms were bright and colourful. Adequate and suitable play facilities were available for children. Low level tables and chairs were noted, materials were accessible on low level shelving. Interest areas noted in the pre-school rooms included a home area, construction area, a hair salon and a rest area.

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	<p>(b) Suitable rest facilities are available in the pre-school rooms.</p> <p>(4) Two large outdoor play areas were available which were safe and secure surrounded by high fencing. An absorbent surface was noted where the sheltered outdoor areas were positioned leading out from the pre-school rooms. An extra sheltered outdoor play area was noted for children's use. Age and stage appropriate toys and equipment were available for outdoor play activities.</p>
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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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>The registered provider stated the parents will provide sufficient and healthy snacks for the proposed children attending the service.</p> <p>A fridge is available for the storage of perishable goods in each pre-school room.</p> <p>A healthy eating policy was available for review.</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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>The main entrance doors to the pre-school service are secured by a lock and key system. A sliding bolt is in use on the front door to ensure children's safety within the service.</p> <p>The kitchen is inaccessible to children.</p> <p>Stairgates are located at the top and bottom of the wooden stairs for the children attending the pre-school room located on the first floor.</p> <p>The emergency exit doors are unobstructed.</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:

The requirement was met.

(1)

The registered provider is qualified in first aid response (FAR) training. The expiry date noted is the 27 August 2024.

(2)(a)

First aid boxes are located in a conspicuous position in the pre-school rooms.

(b)

First aid boxes are available to children in the service.

### 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:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)

A fire register is available for monthly fire drills to be conducted in the pre-school service.

(b)

Maintenance records were available for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms dated January 2023.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

Fire evacuation diagrams were displayed in each pre-school room.

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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 requirement was met.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider 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.

### 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 was met.

(a)

The premises visually appeared to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

The main entrance is secure to ensure the children’s safety within the service.

(c)

An oil-fired central heating system is in place with thermostatically controlled radiators in place in the service.

The service submitted a maintenance record to the Early Years Inspector via email on the 11 July 2023 in respect of the heating system.

Natural lighting is supplemented by adequate artificial lighting in the pre-school rooms.

Openable windows are available in the pre-school rooms and in the sanitary accommodation for natural ventilation.

The service is connected to the public water supply.

The registered provider stated a mechanical waste water treatment system is in place.

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	<p>(d) The floors and the walls are in a good state of repair and maintenance. A cleaning schedule was available for the service.</p> <p>A contractor for the collection of refuse bins has been engaged by the service to collect refuse from the premises on a scheduled basis.</p> <p>Pest control records were in place and dated 14 June 2023.</p> <p>(e) Seven toilets and seven wash hand basins are available in the sanitary accommodation. Warm running water, soap and hand towels were noted. A nappy changing unit and wash hand basin was available in separate sanitary accommodation. A staff toilet and a wash hand basin are available for use by staff members.</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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space was available to provide the children with an environment to work, play and move freely on a sessional basis.</p> <p>(3) The approximate measurements of the rooms recorded indicated there is adequate space at 1.818 m<sup>2</sup> for the proposed 66 children to attend the service.</p>					
	<b>Room 1 (Beside Kitchen)</b>	<b>Room 2</b>	<b>Room 3</b>	<b>Room 4</b>	<b>Room 5 First floor</b>	<b>Breakout room (previously a sleep room)</b>
	28.62m <sup>2</sup>	21.34m <sup>2</sup>	23.26m <sup>2</sup>	22.20m <sup>2</sup>	44.7m <sup>2</sup>	13.7m <sup>2</sup>