

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.:	TU2015WH016							
Name of Service	Mellowes Childcare							
Address of Service:	Moygrehan, Athboy, Co. Westmeath, C15W288							
Email Address:	info@mellowes.ie							
Name of Registered Provider:	Deborah Mc Guinness							
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 the number of children from 96 to 118.							
Proposed Number of Children:	118							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Change in Number of Children from 96 to 116 children							
Registered change:	Change in Number of Children from 96 to 116 children							
Date of Inspection:	2	1	0	2	2	0	2	5
Inspection undertaken by:	Caroline O' Connor Hughes							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath							

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 Service for 116 children
Date of Registration	7 th March 2025

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



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	This service is registered as a full day care, part time and sessional service. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The age range of children currently enrolled in the service is 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 on a Monday to Friday basis.
Premises	<p>The Early Years' Service is located in a two-storey purpose-built premises. Six pre-school rooms accommodate the children in the service. The wobbler room, toddler room, toddler 2 room, ECCE room, cinema, staff room and office are located on the ground floor.</p> <p>Three ECCE rooms and the kitchen are located on the first floor of the service.</p> <p>The proposed yellow ECCE room on the first floor is to accommodate children attending on a sessional and full day care basis.</p> <p>A large outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the premises. An adventure centre is co-located adjacent to the outdoor play area. On-site parking and set down areas are located to the side of the premises.</p> <p>The service is located on the outskirts of the town of Athboy, County Westmeath.</p>
Staffing	Twenty staff members are employed in the service. The registered provider works directly with children. The person in charge does not work with children. A cook is employed to prepare and provide meals in the service.
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>
Additional Information	The service was found to be operating the additional room prior to approval from the Registration Office.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 Early Years 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.

(1)

Two adults employed in the service will work with the proposed 20 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.

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>Adequate and suitable play facilities were available for children in the yellow ECCE room. Low level tables and chairs were noted with developmentally appropriate toys and materials accessible to children on low level shelving. Dress up, a home area, construction area, sensory stand, and a village shop were noted in the pre-school room.</p> <p>(1)(b) A suitable rest facility was available for children to rest in the yellow ECCE room. Low level beds were available for children to rest and sleep.</p> <p>(2)(b) The outdoor play area was surrounded by a fence and gates. The outdoor play areas were noted to have a variety of toys and play equipment for use by the children. Interest areas included a sand room, climbing units with slides and climbing walls, swing sets, wooden structures including a shop, a ship and post office.</p>
--	---

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 was met.</p> <p>The service provides the main meal to children on a daily basis.</p> <p>The registered provider stated the parents will provide sufficient and healthy snacks for the proposed children attending the service.</p> <p>The service will have some food supplies available if required.</p> <p>A refrigerator is available for the storage of perishable goods in the kitchen and in the pre-school room.</p> <p>A healthy eating policy was available in the service.</p>
-------------------------	---

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 was met.

The emergency exit doors are unobstructed from the pre-school room.
A fire assembly point is in place to the front of the service.
Stairgates are in place on the stairs leading to the yellow ECCE room.
Fire safety restrictors are in place on all windows in the yellow ECCE room.
Medication is stored inaccessible to children.
Refuse bins are inaccessible to children.
Cleaning agents are stored inaccessible to children.

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)
Three adults hold a first aid response qualification (FAR) and are available on the premises.
- (2)(a)
Two first boxes are located on the ground and the first floor.
- (b)
A first aid box was accessible to adults caring for children in the pre-school service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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:

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 a dated 27 September 2024 and 15 October 2024 respectively.

(4)

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

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.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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. Visitor access is managed appropriately. The inspector signed the visitors book on arrival.

(c)

Oil central heating and radiators provide heating in the service. A service record was available for the heating system dated the 25 October 2024. The environmental temperatures were recorded at 18.3 Celsius in the yellow pre-school room.

Natural lighting is available through windows supplemented with artificial lighting in the yellow pre-school room. Protective covers were noted on the light fitting.

Windows are openable in the yellow pre-school room for natural ventilation and mechanical ventilation was noted in the sanitary accommodation.

The service is connected to the public water supply and drainage system.

(d)

The floors and the walls are in a good state of repair and maintenance. The premises has been recently painted. A cleaning schedule was available for the yellow pre-school room.

A contractor for the collection of refuse bins has been engaged by the service to collect refuse from the premises on a scheduled basis.

Pest control records noted the last inspection was dated the 13 February 2025.

(e)

Sufficient sanitary facilities are available within the service to accommodate the proposed increase in the number of children attending the service. Children

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>attending the proposed yellow pre-school room will have access to three toilets and three wash hand basins.</p> <p>Two separate staff toilets and a wash hand basin are available for use by staff members in the service.</p> <p>Thermostatically controlled water was available in sanitary accommodation. The temperature recorded at the wash hand basins was 39 degrees Celsius.</p>
--	--

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.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>Clear floor space was available to provide the children with an environment to work, play and move freely in the ECCE room.</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>The recorded measurements of 45.59 m2 indicated there is adequate space for the proposed 22 children to attend on a sessional basis and 20 children on a full day care basis. The current planning permission from the local authority states “the maximum number of children in any room is 20 in the interest of health and safety.”</p>
-------------------------	--