

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015WH016
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Name of Service	Mellowes Childcare
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Address of Service:	Moygrehan, Athboy, Co. Westmeath
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Email Address:	info@mellowes.ie
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ms Deborah Mc Guinness
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change:	Change from 80 to 103 children attending on a full time, part time and sessional basis.
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Proposed Number of Children:	103 children
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Recommended Change Following Inspection:	96 children attending on a full time, part time and sessional basis.
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Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 80 to 96
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Date of Inspection:	2	4	0	7	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by:	C. O' Connor Hughes and K. Murphy
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Services, 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 Care Service for 96 Children
Date of Registration	1 st September 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).

Description of Service	<p>The service is proposing to accommodate 96 pre-school children attending on a full day care basis from 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday.</p> <p>The service is currently registered to offer full day care, part time and sessional care for 80 children. The age range of children enrolled in the service is 1 to 6 years of age.</p>
Premises	<p>The Early Years' Service is located in a purpose-built dormer building. On-site parking and set down areas are located to the side of the premises. Five pre-school rooms, a cinema, a soft zone playroom, a staff room, a dining room, an office and a kitchen are provided. 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. The service is rural in its location between the village of Clonmellon and the town of Athboy.</p>
Staffing	<p>Sixteen staff are employed in the service working directly with children. The registered provider works directly with children. The deputy person in charge assists with the maintenance and overall operation of the service. A cleaner and cook are employed in the service.</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 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</p>

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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.

There is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required established in the service.

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)

The registered provider stated she will employ more adults to meet the required adult: child ratio for the proposed ninety-six 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.

(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 was met.

(1)(a)

The pre-school rooms are equipped with adequate and suitable play materials and equipment. The rooms are bright and colourful. Low level tables and chairs are in place. Age and stage appropriate toys and materials are accessible on low level

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	<p>shelving. Dress up, a home area, cosy rest area with books and a shop were noted in the pre-school rooms.</p> <p>(b) Suitable and adequate rest facilities are available in the service. There are two sleep rooms in the service on the ground floor equipped with ten standard cots for children aged under two years of age to rest and sleep. Twenty- four low level beds are available for children aged over two years to sleep as needed. Rest areas are provided in each pre-school room.</p> <p>(3)(a) 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. Segregated play areas that are age and stage appropriate are for the sole use of the children attending the service. A large climbing frame with slides, swings and a play tunnel were noted. A recent instalment of a large wooden structure with slides and a climbing wall was available for children's use.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>The requirement was not met.</p> <p>(1)(b) Foot holds of 4cm to 5cm were noted in 5 cots in the service as the mattresses did not fit the cots correctly.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(1)(b) All cot mattresses now fit cots correctly.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement was met.</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>A menu plan was available and reviewed in line with the services healthy eating policy. The service will provide the breakfast and meals for children. Parents will provide a morning and afternoon snacks for children. Drinking water is freely available. A healthy eating policy was available. Perishable foods will be stored in the fridges in the pre-school rooms.</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.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>The entrance was secure and a doorbell system is in place for staff to allow access to parents and visitors to the service.</p> <p>The kitchen is inaccessible to children.</p> <p>Cleaning materials are stored out of children’s use.</p> <p>The emergency exit doors are unobstructed.</p> <p>A designated fire assembly point is in the outdoor play area.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>The requirement was not met.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The water temperature recorded in the room 3, room 4 and room 6 was 44.5 to 45 degrees Celsius which was more than the maximum temperature of 43 degrees Celsius. 2. Pedal bins were not available in the sanitary accommodation in room 3, room 5 and room 6 for the hygienic disposal of waste. 3. Telephone cables were not secured to prevent a child accessing the telephone cable in the pre-school rooms. 4. The corner of the couch in room 1 was torn and required repair.
Response from Provider:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water temperature is to be checked and regulated by our plumber. 2. New pedal bins have been purchased and installed for all sanitary accommodation. 3. Telephone cables are all clipped up high on the wall. 4. Corner couch to be repaired.
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement was met.</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, the designated person in charge and a staff member are qualified in first aid response (FAR) training. (2)(a) Two first aid boxes are located in a conspicuous position in the pre-school areas in the service. (b) First aid boxes are available to children in the service.
Requirement not met:	The requirement was not met. (2)(a) The first aid box on the first floor was not fully equipped in line with TUSLA Quality Framework document checklist for first aid boxes.
Response from Provider:	(2)(a) All recommended contents have now been installed.
Summary Comment:	The requirement was met.

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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>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1)(a) A written record is available for monthly fire drills to be conducted in the pre-school service.</p> <p>(b) Maintenance records and the fire certificate were available for smoke alarms and firefighting equipment dated 31 August 2022 and 15 September 2022 respectively.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedure to be following in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.</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>The requirement was met.</p> <p>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.</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:

The requirement was met.

(a)

The premises is a purpose-built dormer building that incorporates six playrooms. The premises visually appears to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

The main entrance to the pre-school service is accessible via an intercom system.

(c)

Oil fired central heating is provided throughout the premises. A maintenance certificate was available for review in respect of the boiler system dated 15 January 2023.

The environmental temperature of the pre-school rooms was recorded at 20 degrees Celsius.

Natural lighting is supplemented by artificial lighting in each pre-school room. Windows are openable in each pre-school room and sanitary accommodation to allow for natural ventilation.

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

(d)

The floors on the first floor and the walls throughout are in a good state of repair and maintenance. A cleaning schedule was available for the service.

Large refuse bins are located externally at the back of the premises. A contractor for the collection of refuse bins has been engaged by the service to collect refuse from the premises on a scheduled basis.

A pest control maintenance certificate dated 5 June 2023 was available for review.

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	<p>(e)</p> <p>Suitable sanitary accommodation is available in the service to accommodate the children attending on a sessional, part time and full day care basis. Eight water closets and eight wash hand basins and three nappy changing units are available in the service. Staff sanitary accommodation consists of two toilets and two wash hand basins.</p> <p>The wash hand basins are plumbed with an instantaneous supply of hot and cold water.</p> <p>The sanitary accommodation is stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towel and electric hand dryers.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>The requirement was not met.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>The laminate flooring on the ground floor in room 3 and in the wobbler sleep room adjacent to room 2 required replacement. It is acknowledged that the registered provider stated she had contacted a contractor recently to replace the flooring.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>(d)</p> <p>Laminated floor has been replaced with vinyl flooring.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement was met.</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.
- (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.
- (4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—
- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and
 - (b) 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:

The requirement was met.

(1)
Adequate clear floor space was available to provide the children with an environment to work, play and move freely.

(2)

Room 1 Ground Floor	Room 2 Ground Floor	Room 3 Ground Floor	Room 4 Ground Floor
54.603m ²	22.510m ²	41.884m ²	34.03m ²
Room 5 First floor	Room 6 First floor Arts and crafts	Room 7 First floor Soft Ball room	Room 8 First floor Dining Room
53.494m ²	23.294m ²	37.963m ²	16.593m ²

(4)(a)(b)

The measurements recorded in (2) rooms 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 are for the 96 proposed children attending on a sessional, part time and full day care basis.