

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015WH066

Name of Service Kids Kottage

Address of Service: Main Street, Tyrellspass, Co. Westmeath

Email Address: Deirdre.raleigh@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Deirdre Raleigh

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Change in use of a new sleep room to a care room to accommodate five children on a temporary basis until December 2024.

Proposed Number of Children: 53

Recommended Change Following Inspection: 53

Registered change: Change in use of a new sleep room to a care room to accommodate five children on a temporary basis until December 2024.

Date of Inspection:	0	7	1	1	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: C. O' Connor Hughes

Title: Early Years Inspector

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, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 53 children

Date of Registration 15th November 2024

Authority to Inspect

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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	The service is registered to offer sessional, part time and full day care places to fifty-three children. The age range of children enrolled in the service is 0 to 6 years of age. The service is currently operating from 08:00 to 17:30.
Premises	The Early Years' Service is located in a two storey adapted premises and provides four pre-school rooms. The "burrow", "hive" and "coop" a sleep room, a kitchen and an office are located on the ground floor. The "nest" room is located on the first floor. A second sleep room was built in the main creche building on the ground floor in 2023. This room has been assigned from a sleep room to a pre-school room to provide temporary accommodation for pre-school children from the "den" since the 6 August 2023. The service is located in the village of Tyrellspass, Co. Westmeath.
Staffing	Eighteen adults are employed to work directly with children. A cook is employed by the service. The registered provider works directly with children.
Methodology	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. 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.

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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, 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:	The requirement was met. (1)(a) The pre-school service has a named designated person in charge and deputy person in charge.
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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) Eighteen adults are working in the service to ensure that the required adult to child ratio will be maintained. Two staff members work directly with the five children in the Den room.
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

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- (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 or

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>Suitable toys and materials were available for children to use in the Den room. Materials were accessible on low level shelving.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>Six cot beds are available for children to sleep in the Den room. A rest area for children was noted in the Den room.</p> <p>(3)(a)</p> <p>The outdoor play is currently limited due to impending construction to the rear of the existing premises. A section of outdoor play for use by children has been secured by high level wire fence and netting. An artificial surface was noted. Toys and equipment included bicycles and scooters.</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.

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

The service will provide all meals and snacks for children proposing to attend on a part time or full day care basis. A menu plan is available. Milk and water is available for children. Perishable foods are stored in the fridge in the main kitchen.

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 in the Den room.

Medication and cleaning agents are inaccessible to children in the Den room.

A fire assembly point is in place to the front of the service.

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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)

Fifteen adults are qualified in first aid response (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A fully stocked first aid box is located in a conspicuous position in the service.

(b)

A first aid box is 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 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 written record is available for monthly fire drills to be conducted in the pre-school service.

(b)

Maintenance records were available for the smoke alarms and firefighting equipment dated May 2024 and August 2024 and respectively.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be following in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

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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
(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.

(b)

The entrance to the service was safe and secure with a coded system and doorbell for entry.

(c)

An environmental temperature of 18.8 degrees Celsius was recorded in the Den room. Air conditioning was noted in the Den room.

The commissioning date for the heating was 5 November 2024.

Natural lighting is supplemented by artificial lighting in the Den room.

(d)

The floors and the walls are in a good state of repair and maintenance. A cleaning record was available.

Pest control documentation dated 22 August 2024 was available and an external pest control contractor is engaged on a need's basis.

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	<p>(e)</p> <p>A nappy changing unit was available for use in respect of the children in the Den room located in the nearby sanitary accommodation. A wash hand basin with an instantaneous supply of hot and cold water was noted.</p> <p>A wash hand basin was available in the Den room and the temperature at the wash hand basin was recorded at 38.3 degrees Celsius.</p> <p>The sanitary accommodation is stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towel.</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.*

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 Den room.</p> <p>(2)</p> <p>The Den room with an area of 13.091m² accommodates five children to attend on a part time/ full day care basis as an interim measure. A new building is being added to the premises and due for completion in December 2024.</p>
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