

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2015WH082

**Name of Service** Giggles Pre-School & Childcare CLG

**Address of Service:** The Arches, Donore, Streamstown, Mullingar Co. Westmeath, N91 CK77

**Email Address:** gigglespreschoolandchildcare@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Veronica Lynam

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

**Proposed change:** Change the number of children from 60 to 88.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 88 children

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Change the number of children from 60 to 88.

**Registered change:** Change in Number of Children from 60 to 88 children

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	7	0	4	2	0	2	5
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**Inspection undertaken by:** K. Murphy

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 88 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

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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>	The service is registered as a full day care service to accommodate children aged 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. A school aged childcare facility is provided. The service is operated by an independent provider. Children attending the ECCE service avail of an exclusively outdoor experience.
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The Early Years' Service is located in a single storey purpose-built extension to the home of the registered provider. One large pre-school room and two sleep rooms are provided.</p> <p>In the outdoor area a standalone industry grade kitchen, two classroom areas, sanitary accommodation and an office are currently provided.</p> <p>Extensive outdoor play areas are attached to the rear of the premises. Onsite parking and set down facilities are available. The service is rural in its location outside the village of Streamstown, County Westmeath.</p> <p>Two prefabricated units have recently been added to the service to accommodate two proposed additional pre-school rooms to act as shelters for children proposing to attend the exclusively outdoor experience.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	On 07 April 2025 the registered provider facilitated the inspection.
<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</p>

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	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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the registered provider who was 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.  (1)(a)  The service has a named designated person in charge with another named staff member able to deputise as required.
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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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.  (1)  Provision is in place to meet the necessary adult to child ratios for children proposing to attend on sessional, part time or full day care allocations.
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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 has been met.

(1)(a)  
 Suitable and adequate play and work equipment are provided indoors and outdoors which incorporate areas with toys and equipment for arts and crafts, home corners, interest areas, sensory and tabletop activities.

(b)  
 Soft furnishings provide suitable and adequate rest facilities in the proposed new pre-school rooms. Low level beds are provided for children over the age of two and ten cots located in two sleep rooms are provided for children under the age of two proposing to attend the service on a part time or full day care basis who require sleep or rest.

(3)  
 An outdoor area is attached to the rear of the service. A high-level metal fence secures the perimeter of the outdoor play area. A variety of play equipment and outdoor toys are available.

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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 has been met.

Each day a cook prepares meals and snacks for the children attending the service.

Refrigerated storage facilities are available. Additional fresh, dry, chilled and frozen goods are available in the premises to provide additional food if required by a child.

### 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 has been met.

The entrance gate into the service was secure. The emergency exit doors from the pre-school rooms are unobstructed. Designated fire assembly points are located to the front and rear of the premises.

Cleaning materials are stored out of children's reach.

### 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 has been met.

(1)

Three adults qualified in first aid response (FAR) are rostered to be on duty during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)(b)

First aid boxes stocked with sufficient supplies were in prominent locations in the service.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Provision is in place to record completed monthly fire drills in the premises.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the fire extinguishers and the smoke detection system in the premises and dated March 2025.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the proposed pre-school rooms.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been 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.

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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 has been met.

(a)

The two additional prefabricated units visually appear to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

The side gate and main door to the service are secure. A bell system at the side gate is used to alert staff to facilitate entry upon identification of parents and visitors.

(c)

In the proposed two new pre-school rooms high level windows provide both natural light and ventilation.

The light fittings are covered and fully operational to provide adequate artificial light to the proposed new pre-school rooms and the associated new sanitary accommodation.

An electric heating system is in place in the service with wall mounted radiators in place in the proposed new pre-school rooms. An environmental temperature of 21 degrees Celsius was recorded in both the proposed pre-school rooms and the sanitary accommodation.

Wastewater and sewage are removed from the premises by means of a small wastewater system which was commissioned in May 2022.

Potable drinking water is supplied to the premises by means of a private well supply.

The most recent monitoring and testing was carried out 23 October 2024 on behalf of Westmeath County Council.

(d)

The floors and walls were in a good state of repair and maintenance. A cleaning schedule was available for the service and records were in place. A pest control system is in place with bait boxes reviewed by the registered provider on a scheduled basis.

Waste and refuse are removed daily to externally located and secure closed bins. A contractor for the collection of refuse bins has been engaged by the service to collect refuse from the premises on a scheduled basis.

(e)

The required sanitary facilities have been provided. Four additional water closets and four wash hand basins have been provided in sanitary accommodation to cater for the additional children proposing to attend.

The sanitary accommodation is ventilated by means of mechanical ventilation.

Sanitary accommodation is stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towel.

The wash hand basins are plumbed with an instantaneous supply of hot and cold water. A temperature of 35 degrees Celsius was noted.

Separate sanitary facilities are available and designated for staff use.

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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 has been met.

(1)

Floor space for the work, play and movement of an additional twenty-eight children aged 2-6 years proposing to attend the service is available in the premises. The children are to be accommodated in existing and newly developed pre-school rooms.

(2)

The new pre-school room identified on the floor plans as shelter A with an area of approximately 34.619 m<sup>2</sup> in line with the floor plans submitted ensures that sufficient clear floor space is available in respect of 19 children aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years to attend on a sessional basis or 15 children to attend on a part time or full day care basis.

The new pre-school room identified on the floor plans as shelter B with an area of approximately 50.342 m<sup>2</sup> in line with the floor plans submitted ensures that sufficient clear floor space is available in respect of at least 22 children aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years to attend on a sessional basis or 21 children to attend on a part time or full day care basis.

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The existing pre-school room identified on the floor plans as the oak cabin with an area of approximately 27.295 m<sup>2</sup> in line with the floor plans submitted ensures that sufficient clear floor space is available in respect of at least 11 children aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years to attend on a sessional, part time or full day care basis.

The existing pre-school room identified on the floor plans as the willow cabin with an area of approximately 31.383 m<sup>2</sup> in line with the floor plans submitted ensures that sufficient clear floor space is available in respect of at least 14 children aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years to attend on a sessional basis or 13 children on a part time or full day care basis.

The existing pre-school room identified on the floor plans as the wobbler and toddler room with an area of approximately 57.93 m<sup>2</sup> in line with the floor plans submitted ensures that sufficient clear floor space is available in respect of 22 children, 10 children aged 1 -2 years and 12 children aged 2 – 3 years to attend on a part time or full day care basis.

(4)(a)(b)

In a contemporaneous situation a minimum of 1.818 square metres is available for children proposing to attend on a sessional basis.