

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D:** TU2015WW100

**Name of Service** The Cave Preschool

**Address of Service:** High Street, Wicklow Town, Wicklow, A67 AE95

**Email Address:** clairefitzgerald1@hotmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Claire Fitzgerald

<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:** To change service type from sessional to part-time  
To change service times from 09.30am-12.30pm to 09.30am to 13.30pm.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 22 Sessional children  
16 Part Time children

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** To allow the proposed changes in service type and hours of operation.

**Registered change:** Change of service type from Sessional to Part Time & Sessional for 22 Children (Max 16 Part Time)  
Change in hours of operation from 09:30 – 12:30 to 09:30 – 13:30

**Date of Inspection:** 2 4 0 4 2 0 2 4

**Inspection undertaken by:** H. Bourke

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** First Floor Trinity Building  
Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Part Time & Sessional for 22 Children (Max 16 Part Time)  
**Date of Registration** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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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>	This sessional service was first established in 1999 and is located off the main street in Wicklow town. The service currently caters for 22 children on a sessional basis. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 12.30pm. The service is registered to provide care and education for children aged between 2 years and 6 years of age, this includes a sessional ECCE service for 38 weeks of the year. The registered provider stated that she does not take children in nappies.
<b>Premises</b>	The service operates from a purpose-built prefabricated building. The service comprises of one large preschool room, a kitchen and sanitary accommodation. The outdoor area is located at the front and side of the premises.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service currently has three staff members of employed this includes the registered provider.
<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>

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

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.  (1)(a)  The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy.
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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)  The service currently caters for 22 children on a sessional basis and proposes to have 16 children on a part time basis with an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times. There are three staff members currently employed in the service.
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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

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*(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*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The service comprises of a single room area in a prefabricated building. The pre-school area is bright and spacious and well laid out to cater for the age range of children who will be attending the service.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>There is a large sofa in the pre-school room for the children to use should they require a rest during their day. The children will have access to low-level beds as required with bed linen should they require sleep during the day.</p> <p>(3)(a)</p> <p>The outdoor space consists of a soft impact surfaced area to the front and side of the pre-school. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area. There was an assortment of suitable toys available for all proposed age groups attending the preschool. The outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.</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 has been met.</p> <p>Parents provide all snacks for their child attending on a sessional basis. The registered provider proposes to provide food for the children who will attend on a part-time basis. All snacks and lunches must be in line with the health eating policy of the service.</p>
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Refrigerated storage facilities are available for perishable lunches. Portable water is available for children. If a child requires additional food, this will be provided by the registered provider.

### 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 registered provider stated the main gate that gives access to the service is locked at all times, ensuring children cannot leave the service unsupervised and unauthorised access to the service cannot occur.
- The emergency exit door was unobstructed.
- Storage was available for children’s belongings along the hallway that linked the care room.
- Cleaning materials and equipment were stored in the kitchen area within the service.
- A fridge was available for the storage of food.
- A cleaning schedule for toys and equipment was available, as well as a cleaning schedule of the pre-school room and sanitary areas.
- The sanitary accommodations were well stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towels.
- The water temperature was recorded at 36.2°C. A large foot pedal bin was present in both sanitary areas, for the safe disposal of used paper towels.
- The pre-school room and sanitary accommodations were ventilated by openable windows.

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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 has been met.

(1)

The registered provider has a current certification in FAR first aid training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the care room. It was clearly identifiable and readily accessible.

(b)

The first aid box will always be available to the children attending the pre-school 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 has been met.

(1)(a)

The registered provider has indicated that fire drills will continue to be carried out in the pre-school service.

(b)

There was a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment and for the servicing of the fire detection and alarm system both dated April 2024.

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	(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in both the pre-school room and hall area of the premises. The fire assembly point was identified.
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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.  An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Office. 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.  (a) The service is in a prefabricated building and seems to be of a sound and stable structure.  (b) The point of entry to the service is through a locked gate that then leads to the main door which is located to the front of the premises. This door remains securely closed during the duration of the preschool day. The door can be locked with a key from the
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	<p>inside. This door is used as the fire exit. The outdoor area is secured with a high wall and access to the outdoor area is through the pre-school main door and is suitable to prevent a child leaving unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.</p> <p>(c)</p> <p>There are openable windows in the pre-school room and sanitary accommodation providing natural daylight and ventilation. Overhead lights with protective coverings provide adequate additional artificial lighting in the room. The pre-school room is heated by electric storage heaters in the form of radiators that are thermostatically controlled to always maintain the room temperature at a comfortable level.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>A cleaning schedule was in place in the pre-school room. The premises and surrounding environment were clean and well maintained.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>The sanitary accommodation is located outside the pre-school room, in the entrance hall of the service. It consists of 2 separate child-sized toilets, 2 wash hand basins. A separate toilet and wash hand basin is adjacent to the children’s sanitary area for adults. Thermostatically controlled hot water was available in the children’s sanitary area and the temperature of the water in the low sinks was 38.2°C.</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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met.  (1)
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Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the service.

(2)

The clear floor space in the Montessori room measured 50 square metres. There is sufficient space in the service to cater for 22 children on a sessional and 16 children on a part-time basis in the proposed age range.