

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015WW110

Name of Service Stratford Scallywags

Address of Service: Chapel Lane, Stratford on Slaney, Baltinglass,
Co. Wicklow W91 FPF3

Email Address: Stratfordscallywags@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Mr Tom Whittle

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time		Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: To increase from 20 children to 22 children

Proposed Number of Children: 22 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: To allow an increase to 22 children

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 20 to 22.

Date of Inspection:	2	4	0	1	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: H. Bourke

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Child and Family Agency
First floor Trinity Building
IDA Business Park, 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 Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	1 st February 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).

Description of Service	Stratford Scallywags pre-school was first opened in 2006 and is a community owned childcare service. The pre-school is located in the rural setting of Stratford on Slaney in west Wicklow. It is registered to provide care and education to children aged between 2 years and 6 years of age. The preschool operates between the hours of 09.15am and 12.15pm Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service also runs a breakfast club and afterschool care.
Premises	The pre-school is located in a community hall on the outskirts of Stratford on Slaney. It consists of one large care room, with sanitary accommodation, a storeroom and a kitchen. There is a large enclosed outdoor area to the side of the premises which the children have access to on a daily basis.
Staffing	There is a board of management who are in charge of the pre-school and the chairperson is the registered provider but does not work directly with the children attending the service. There are three full-time members of staff employed in the service, this includes the manager and the deputy manager.
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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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 has been met.

(1)

The service proposes to accommodate 22 children on a sessional basis in one large care room with an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times. There are three staff members employed in the service.

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.

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(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The service comprises of one large care room. The room 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) A large suitable rest area, consisting of three large sofas, has been provided in the care room.</p> <p>(4) The outdoor space consists of a large mixed surface area. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor area. There was an assortment of suitable toys available for the age group attending the pre-school. The outdoor area was found to be 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.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>Parents will be requested to provide all snacks for their child attending the service. All snacks must be in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Refrigerated storage facilities are available for perishable lunches.</p> <p>Portable water is available for children.</p> <p>If a child requires additional food the onsite kitchen will provide a healthy snack as needed.</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:

The requirement has been met.

- The manager stated the front door 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.
- Cleaning materials and equipment were stored in a utility cupboard in the service.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to children.
- A fridge was available in the kitchen 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 area.
- The sanitary accommodation was 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 the sanitary area, for the safe disposal of used paper towels.
- The pre-school room and sanitary accommodation was ventilated by openable windows.

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.

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	<p>(1) All staff members have a current certification in FAR first aid training.</p> <p>(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the care room. It was clearly identifiable and readily accessible.</p> <p>(b) The first aid box will always be available to the children attending the pre-school service.</p>
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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 has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The manager has indicated that fire drills will continue to be carried out in the pre-school service.</p> <p>(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 dated August 2023 and October 2023 respectively.</p> <p>(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the pre-school room and throughout the premises. The fire assembly point was identified.</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:	The requirement has been met.
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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.

There was certified evidence of insurance for 22 pre-school children in place which expires in March 2024.

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 pre-school is located in a single storey community property that has been adapted to accommodate the service.

(b)

The point of entry for the service is through the main door that leads to the pre-school room. This door is monitored by CCTV and by the manager and staff members and can be locked with a key from the inside.

The outdoor area is secured with a high wooden fence and there is a locked gate at the point of entry to the outdoor area to prevent a child leaving unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.

(c)

The premises benefits from natural light via windows in the pre-school room. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from up lighting located on the walls around the room. The pre-school is heated by electric storage heaters. Windows in

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	<p>the pre-school rooms can be opened but have restrictors in place and there is natural ventilation in the sanitary area.</p> <p>(d) A cleaning schedule was in place in the pre-school room. The premises and surrounding environment were clean and well maintained.</p> <p>(e) The sanitary accommodation is located within the pre-school room. The sanitary area consists of three separate toilets and three wash hand basins, one cubicle allows for disability access. A separate toilet and wash hand basin is available for adults. Thermostatically controlled hot water was available in the children’s sanitary area and the temperature of the water was 36.2°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.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated below:</p> <p>(2) The clear floor space in the pre-school room measured 63.09 square metres. There is sufficient space in the service to cater for the proposed 22 pre-school children on a sessional basis.</p>
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