

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015WX012

Name of Service Blackstairs Community Playschool

Address of Service: Community Hall, Kiltealy, Enniscorthy, Wexford, Y21 XF66

Email Address: mickweafer@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Michael Weafer

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

Proposed change: To change the service type to full day care and change hours of operation.

Proposed Number of Children: 44, with a maximum of 10 children attending on full day care basis.

Recommended Change Following Inspection: The inspector recommends all changes.

Registered change:
 Change in Service Type from Sessional to Full Day Care & Sessional
 Change in number of children from 44 to 44 (Maximum 10 Full Day Care)
 Change in hours of operation from 09:20 – 13:00 to 07:50 – 18:00

Date of Inspection:	1	5	1	2	2	0	2	3
----------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Inspection undertaken by: E Mc Garry

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Ely Hospital, Wexford

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care & Sessional Service for 44 Children (Max 10 Full Day Care)
Date of Registration	13 th March 2024

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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	Blackstairs Community Playschool is a community based preschool service situated in the village of Killealy which is governed by a board of management. The service provides a sessional service for children from 2 to 6 years of age operating a morning session from 9.20am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday for 38 weeks per year. The service is also registered to provide a school age service. The registered provider proposes to change the services registration as follows. Change from sessional to full day care for children aged from 2 years 6 months to 6 years of age to accommodate 10 children on a full day care basis following completion of the sessional hours. To change the opening times of the service from 9.20am to 1.00pm to 7.50am to 6.00pm.
Premises	The service is operated from rooms in the community centre. The rooms allocated to the preschool service have been renovated to meet the needs of the service. The service consists of two large playrooms, toilets, and nappy changing facilities. The service has access to the community playground and an enclosed playground directly beside the service.
Staffing	There are five staff employed in the service. All staff currently working directly with the preschool children hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.
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 deciding in relation to</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	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.
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	
<i>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—</i> <i>(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.</i>	
Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. The service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels	
<i>(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.</i>	
Requirement met:	(1) The registered provider proposes to continue to employ the same staff members to work directly with the proposed children during the hours of operation of the full day care service. The registered provider will employ more staff as necessary to ensure there is an adequate number of staff working with the children at all times.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service	
Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play	
<i>(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—</i> <i>(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</i> <i>(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.</i>	

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

(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

(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service.

<p>Requirement met:</p>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The service has two large preschool rooms that have been developed with toys, play materials and areas of interest. The rooms are appropriately resourced. There are two enclosed outdoor areas that the children have access to. There is one playground for the exclusive use of the children attending the service. The second area is a large community playground. The play areas are safe, suitable, and secure.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>There is a rest area provided in the preschool 2 room consisting of a small couch and cushions.</p> <p>(3)(a)(b)</p> <p>The service has two safe, suitable, and secure outdoor areas accessed directly from the service. There are jungle gyms, ride on toys, a large sand pit and raised beds for growing flowers provided for the children.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(1)(b)</p> <p>1.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to use the preschool 1 room to cater for children attending the full day care service. The current rest area consists of a small child sized couch. The rest area is not adequate to provide appropriate comfort and rest for children attending on a full day care basis.</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>2.</p> <p>The registered provider needs to supply an adequate number of beds and bedding for the proposed children to attend the full day care service.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>1.</p> <p>A large comfortable sofa has been purchased and is now in place in the service.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>Three beds with sheets blankets and pillows are now in place in the service for children to sleep on if required.</p> <p>The inspector has received evidence that the above equipment is now in place in the service.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The response and evidence received is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.</p>

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service	
Regulation 22 – Food and Drink	
<i>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.</i>	
Requirement met:	The service has a healthy eating policy in place in the service.
Requirement not met:	The healthy eating policy in place in the service does not include how the service proposes to feed the children attending on a full day care basis. It does not include the schedule of meals and snacks required to cater for children attending the full day care service.
Response from Provider:	The inspector has received the healthy eating policy now in place in the service. The policy includes the schedule of meals which will be served to the children depending on the length of time they will spend in the service.
Summary Comment:	The response and evidence received is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 following requirements to ensure the safety of the children have been met.

General safety:

The openings of the windows are restricted with appropriate restrictive opening devices that can be removed in the event of the window being needed as a means of escape.

There are no loose cords evident on the windows in the preschool rooms. The toys are suitable and appropriate for the ages and stages of the children attending the preschool rooms. The fire doors are not obstructed.

Infection control:

Fridges are available in the service where the children who are currently attending the service store the perishable items of their snacks and meals. All bins in the care rooms and toilet facilities are pedal operated and lidded.

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) There is a person trained in a first aid response course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box is available in the care room of the service and is easily accessible in the event of it being needed.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 has been met.

(1)(a)

The registered provider is aware of the requirement to carry out monthly fire drills in the premises. There is a template in the service to record the monthly fire drills.

(b)

The annual record of the maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service was carried out in September 2023.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire is displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises at the entrance to the service.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement not met:

The requirement for this regulation is not met. The registered provider is aware of the requirement to amend the services proposed insurance schedule to cover the extended service. The change in circumstance is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

Response from Provider:

There is an insurance policy in place to cover the proposed number of children to attend the service on a full day care basis. The policy is in place until 27 March 2024.

Summary Comment:

The response and evidence received is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 of regulation is met.

(a)

The manager reports that the building is of a sound and stable structure. There are adequate storage facilities in the service.

(b)

The manager reports that the building appears to be safe and secure. Access is gained through a glass door. Visitors to the service can be observed through the glass doors at the entrance to the service.

(c)

The lighting is a combination of natural lighting from several windows and there are also fluorescent lights available in the preschool rooms. The preschool rooms are ventilated through openable windows and there is mechanical ventilation provided in the children's toilets.

(d)

The premises is clean and well maintained. There is no evidence of repairs being required.

(e)

There are four toilets and four wash hand basins for use by the preschool children. There is one staff toilet for the exclusive use of the staff working in the service. There is a nappy changing unit in the toilets attached to preschool 1. There is liquid hand soap, paper towels and pedal bins available at all sinks.

Requirement not met:

(c)

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	There is no openable window or mechanical ventilation in the room where the manager proposes to establish a sleeping area for the children who need to sleep in the service. This area is situated directly beside the main preschool room 1 and is currently in use as a library area. The registered provider has been requested to request an assessment of the proposed sleep room from the fire officer.
Response from Provider:	A mechanical ventilation system has been installed in the room where the manager proposes to establish a sleeping area for the children who need sleep in the service. The inspector has received evidence that this system is now in place in the service.
Summary Comment:	The response and evidence received is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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.
- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child 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).
- (5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met:
-------------------------	-------------------------------

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Room	Measurements	Proposed age of children	No of sessional children that can be accommodated.	No of full day care children that can be accommodated.
Preschool 1	61 .9 square meters	2 years and 6 months to 6 years	22	22 (10 requested by the registered provider)
Preschool 2	78 square meters	2 to 6 years	22	22

(1) There is adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the preschool service.

(2) The care rooms provide adequate clear floor space as specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 with reference to the proposed ages of children which the service will accommodate.

(3) The service has adequate floor space for the numbers of children proposed to be facilitated in the service during the full day care hours.

(4) The service has suitable space for the provision of both:

- (a) A sessional service.
- (b) Full day care/part-time service.