

# 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, Killealy, Enniscorthy, Wexford, Y21XF66

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Conan Doyle

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

**Proposed change:** Change in number of children from 44 (Max 20 Full Day Care) to 44 (Max 23 Full Day Care).

**Proposed Number of Children:** 44 (Max 23 Full Day Care)

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Approval for 44 (Maximum 22 Full Day Care) As per the space available as outlined under Regulation 30

**Registered change:** Change in number of children from 44(Max 20 Full Day Care) to 44 (Max 22 Full Day Care).

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	7	0	1	2	0	2	6
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**Inspection undertaken by:** E Cullen

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Tusla Child and Family Agency, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.

**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 & Sessional for 44 (Max 22 Full Day Care) Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2026

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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

Blackstairs Community Playschool is a community based early years service situated in the village of Kiltlealy. It is managed by a board of management. The service provides a sessional and full day care service for children from 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 7:50am to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday for 46 weeks per year. The service is also registered to provide a school age service. The registered provider proposes to increase the number of children attending on a Full Day Care basis from 20 to 23 children within the existing full day care room.

### Premises

The service is operated from two 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

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 deciding 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

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, 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 has been met. 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:**

(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.

At 1:15pm on the day of inspection there were 14 children aged 2 years 6 months to 5 years of age supervised by 5 staff members.

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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.
- (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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

#### (1)(a)

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.

#### (b)

There is a designated rest area provided in the preschool one room in the service consisting of a small couch and cushions. Three low level beds with bed linen are available for use by children wishing to sleep.

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(3)(a)(b)

The service has two safe, suitable, and secure outdoor areas accessed directly from the service. There are climbing frame, ride on toys, a large sand pit and raised beds for growing flowers provided for the children.

### 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 service has a healthy eating policy in place. Children attending the service on a full day care basis have all snacks and meals provided by parents. Two refrigerators are available for storage of perishable foods, and two microwaves were observed in use to reheat a lunch time hot meal.

### 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 premises were safe and secure with keypad access locks on entrance doors. 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. Cleaning schedules were in place, and appropriate hand hygiene was observed as children washed hands prior to eating.

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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) All staff members hold a current certificate in first aid response.

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

### 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 on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as being completed on 15 December 2025.

(b)

The annual record of the maintenance of the firefighting equipment was completed on 10 September 2025 and smoke alarms in the service were carried out on 11 February 2025.

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	(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.
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### 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 met.

The service had an insurance certificate for a full day care service catering for up to 78 children at any one time. The policy commenced on 27 October 2025 and will expire on 27 March 2026.

### 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)

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	<p>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 and rest/sleep area off preschool one.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>The premises are clean and well maintained. There is no evidence of repairs being required.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>There are four toilets and four wash hand basins for use by preschool children. There is one staff toilet for the exclusive use of the staff working in the service. There are two changing units in each of the toilet areas. There are liquid hand soap, paper towels and pedal bins available at all sinks.</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.*
- (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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met:
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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	76.8m <sup>2</sup>	2 years and 6 months to 6 years	22	22
Preschool 2	74.7m <sup>2</sup>	2 to 6 years	22	0 (Room used by School Aged Children)

(1) There is adequate clear floor space 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.