

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2018WW504

Name of Service Curious by Nature Preschool

Address of Service: Wine Tavern, Stratford on Slaney, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow. W91 N9T3

Email Address: cbnpreschool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Michelle Lavelle

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input 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: Proposed change in the number of pre-school children from 20 to 33. Addition of an outdoor care room to accommodate these children.

Proposed Number of Children: 33

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Approve addition of outdoor classroom to existing service to accommodate 33 children

Registered change: Change in number of children from 20 to 33

Date of Inspection: 2 7 0 8 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: S. Early O'Brien & R. Phillips

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Child and Family Agency, The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Dublin 8

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 33 Children
Date of Registration	29th August 2025

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	<p>This private childcare facility currently provides sessional care for children aged two to six years of age.</p> <p>The service proposes to accommodate a maximum number of 33 children at full capacity. The service will operate for 38 weeks per year for a sessional service.</p> <p>The hours of operation will be 08.45am to 11.45am, and 12:00pm and 15:00pm, Monday to Friday. . Care and education are provided to children aged 2-6 years under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme.</p>
Premises	<p>This service currently operates from an adapted care room located adjacent to the registered provider's home in a rural area in County Wicklow. The service has one indoor care room, with an adjoining sanitary area and a covered conservatory area available to the children.</p> <p>The rear of the building has been developed to provide a sheltered, enclosed, additional outdoor care room with associated sanitary facilities to accommodate the proposed increase in the number of children that may attend the service.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider is the person in charge for the service. There will be five adults working with children and these adults have all attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent.</p>
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>

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation 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.

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1)(a) The registered provider has ensured that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if 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.

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1) The service proposes to accommodate 33 children on a sessional basis with an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times. There will be five staff members employed in the service to work directly with the children.
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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.*

Requirement met:

- (1)(a)
 The proposed additional pre-school accommodation presents constructively planned environments that are adequately resourced with play and learning equipment and materials to cater for the proposed number of children aged from 2-6 years old to attend the service. Low level child sized tables and chairs are provided in the outdoor care room and defined play spaces in the garden had supplies of art and craft materials for mark making and painting activities, puzzles, books, loose parts, home corner, shop, farmhouse, planting area, natural materials, a sand pit and sensorial area.
- (b)
 Comfortable rest areas with child sized soft furnishings were provided within the reading area and the loose parts area for children to sit and rest comfortably if required.
- (4)
 Two large, secure play areas are provided for children to play outdoors with a range of age and developmentally appropriate resources and equipment for the age range of the children that will attend the service.

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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.

Parents will be requested to provide all snacks for their child attending on a sessional basis and will be in line with the Health Eating policy of the service.

Refrigerated storage facilities are available for perishable snacks.

Portable water will be available for children.

If a child requires additional food, the registered provider will provide a healthy snack as needed.

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 that the front gate of the proposed service will be locked at all times, ensuring children cannot leave the service unsupervised and unauthorized access to the service cannot occur.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Storage is available for the children's belongings.
- Cleaning materials and equipment are locked in a cupboard in the service.
- A fridge is available in the indoor care room for the storage of food.
- A cleaning schedule for toys and equipment was available.
- The sanitary accommodation was well stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towels both available from wall mounted dispensers. Foot

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	<p>pedal bins were available in the sanitary areas and the proposed care room for the safe disposal of waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed care rooms and sanitary accommodation were ventilated by mechanical and natural ventilation. • All internal doors are thumb locked in an accessible location for adults and out of the reach of the proposed children. • Refuse will be stored where children have no access to it.
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The registered provider and deputy person in charge hold a current certification in FAR (First Aid Response) training.</p> <p>(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available for the proposed service.</p> <p>(b) The first aid box was clearly identifiable and readily accessible.</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 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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a)</p> <p>The registered provider has indicated that fire drills will be carried out monthly in the care rooms.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>There was a maintenance record available for the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system dated June 2025.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>There was a notice of the procedure to follow in the event of a fire clearly displayed in the existing care room with a fire assembly point notice displayed in a prominent location in the outdoor play area.</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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>There was evidence of an insurance policy for a sessional service catering for 33 pre-school children in place which expires on the 27th March 2026</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(a) The proposed outdoor classroom is located to the rear of the registered provider’s home in a rural area of Wicklow.</p> <p>(b) There is one point of entry to the service, through the main gate at the side of the building which is monitored by the registered provider and staff and can be locked from the inside. The outdoor area is secured with a wooden fence. There is a bolted gate at the point of entry to the outdoor area to prevent a child leaving unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.</p> <p>(c) The outdoor care room benefits from natural light via windows. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from covered fluorescent ceiling lights. There is mechanical and natural ventilation in the sanitary area for the outdoor classroom.</p> <p>(d) A cleaning schedule was in place for the care room. The premises and surrounding environment were clean and well maintained.</p> <p>(e) The outdoor classroom sanitary accommodation has one toilet, and one hand basin for use by the children using this care room.</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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(2)

A total clear floor space of 27.51m² is available in the proposed additional outdoor pre-school room.

There is sufficient space in the service to cater for the proposed number of additional children attending on a sessional basis in the proposed age range.