

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2019KK001

**Name of Service:** Croía Childcare

**Address of Service:** Preschool & Afterschool, 23 Greenview, Ballyraggett, Kilkenny, R95N2Y8.

**Email Address:** tinahayde85@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Tina Hayde

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

**Proposed change:** Changing from a sessional service to a part-time service. Opening hours changing from 09:30am to 12:30pm to 09:00 am to 14:00 pm.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 11 in sessional service to 8 in part-time service.

**Registered change:** Part-time service Operating from 09:00 am to 14:00 pm.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	9	1	1	2	0	2	1
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**Inspection undertaken by:** Norma Thornton

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Tusla Child & Family Agency, Athy Road, Carlow.

### Rationale for Inspection :

<b>Proposed Change of Circumstance</b>	Change in service type: Sessional to part-time Change in hours of operation: 9.30am-12.30pm to 09.00am – 14.00pm
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**Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office**

**Registration Status:** Registered Part-Time service for 11 children in sessional service to 8 in part-time service from 09.00am – 14.00pm

**Date of Registration** 13/12/2021



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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>	Croía Childcare is a sessional early years service located in the rural town of Ballyraggett in north county Kilkenny. The service was established and registered with the Early Years Inspectorate in 2019. The service operates from a purpose-built building at the back of the registered provider's premises. The service caters for children aged 2 to 6 years of age providing a sessional early childhood care and education curriculum and also offers a school-age service. The hours of operation are from 09:30am to 12:30pm.
<b>Premises</b>	The service operates from a purpose-built single classroom located to the back of the registered providers private residence. There is a single classroom with an adjacent designated children's toilet and a second designated staff toilet. In the outdoor area between the early years premises and the registered provider's residence, a designated outdoor play area has been created for the children.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service is operated single-handedly by the registered provider who holds a degree in early childhood care and education. There is a second named person familiar with the operation of the service, who lives in proximity to the service and is available at all times to attend the service and assist the registered provider in the event of an emergency.
<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 two themes; Governance, and Safety.</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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who were present on the day of the inspection.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met. The registered provider is the designated person in charge daily. As the registered provider operates the service single-handedly, there is a named second person familiar with the operation of the service, who lives near the service and who is able to provide assistance at all times, during hours of operation.

### 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met as evidenced by the following:

(1) The registered provider ensures that there is one adult directly supervising the 11 early years children, during the hours of operation of the sessional service. The registered provider proposes to ensure that there will be one adult directly supervising eight early years children aged 3 to 6 years of age during the part-time service hours.

(8)(b) Not applicable.

(c) The registered provider operates the service single-handedly and has a second named person who is familiar with the operation of the service. The named second person lives within proximity to the service and is available to attend the service to assist the person in charge, in the event of an emergency.

**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*
- (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.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending 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 have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

**Requirement met:**

(1)(a) The classroom has been developed with clear identifiable areas of interest such as a reading and relaxing area, kitchen/home area, construction area, sensory play area, art and craft area, and contains low level accessible shelving with a variety of age appropriate tabletop activities.

The classroom was observed to be well resourced with accessible, age appropriate, play materials and equipment. There are child-sized tables and appropriate child sized chairs provided.

(b) The classroom has a defined rest area comprised of appropriate seating and reading materials. The registered provider has a supply of three wipeable vinyl mattresses, appropriate fitted sheets and cellular blankets which can be placed in the quiet area of the classroom should a child wish to sleep during the part-time service hours.

(2)(b) The early years school service has access to a designated outdoor play area on the premises. The outdoor play area is secured by a high concrete wall and wooden fence gate. The registered provider has created an outdoor play space in the yard area between the service’s premises and the registered provider’s private residence. The area contains areas of interest which include an outdoor kitchen, construction area, art and creativity area,

	<p>water and sand play, as well as a climbing frame placed on soft surface matting to challenge children’s physical motor skills.</p> <p>(3)(a) Not applicable.                  (b)Not applicable.</p> <p>(4) The preschool service has access to an outdoor play area on the premises that is suitable and secure.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable.</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:**

The registered provider ensures that the service has a healthy eating policy. The healthy eating policy has been related to the parents of the children attending the service with specific information provided in relation to the snack and meal requirements for children attending the part-time service.

Drinking water is readily available in the service and the children bring their own individual drinking bottles.

A refrigerator is provided in the classroom for the safe storage of perishable food items.

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 as evidenced by the following:

**Infection Control**

1. Drinking water from the public water supply is readily available and accessible to the children and staff.
2. A fridge is provided within the classroom for the storage of children’s perishable lunch items
3. Appropriate feeding equipment will be provided in the form of plastic cups and plates.
4. Liquid hand soap and paper towelling was observed in both the childrens toilet and the designated staff toilet.

5. There is a designated hand sanitising station available just inside the main entrance gate of the building and at the entrance door, prior to entry to the early years service, in line with COVID-19 guidance from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC).
6. There is clear signage demonstrating to parents, how to safely drop off and collect their children to the service, while continuing to maintain social distancing, in line with COVID-19 guidance from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC).
7. There is a designated separate secure storage area for cleaning materials and equipment.

**General Safety**

1. The main entrance gate and entrance door to the service are both appropriately secured.
2. The emergency exit door in the building was clearly lit and unobstructed.
3. Door keys are readily available to any adult working in the service.
4. The registered provider demonstrated that a daily risk assessment of the outdoor area is carried out and documented daily.

**Safe Sleep**

1. The registered provider had a safe sleep policy in place in the service, which documented clear instructions for staff on monitoring children while sleeping at 10 minute intervals.
2. There was appropriate sleep equipment available for the children over two years of age should they require to sleep during the part-time service.
3. The registered provider had selected a designated area for the children to sleep in, within the classroom, which was quiet and away from busy activity areas.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met as evidenced by the following:

- (1) Documented evidence was available to demonstrate that the registered provider had completed the approved First Aid Responder course, which was currently in date.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid cabinet was available on the premises. The first aid cabinet was positioned in a conspicuous position out of the reach of the children, and always available to the staff.

**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 as evidenced by the following:

- (1)(a) The inspector observed that a record is available for the recording of monthly fire drills.
- (b) A maintenance record is available for the fire- fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The last maintenance check was recorded as having taken place on the 3 November 2021.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was observed to be displayed just inside the entrance door of the building and on the classroom wall.

**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 as evidenced by the following:

An insurance certificate was available to view and indicated cover for 22 children to attend the service. The insurance certificate expires on the 28 February 2022.

**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:**

(a) The registered provider stated that there are no issues identified in relation to the building structure. The inspector observed the building to be clean, well-organised and well maintained.

(b) The entrance gate to the premises and the entrance door to the early years classroom were both secured to prevent any children from exiting unsupervised or from any unauthorised persons entering the building.

(c) The service was naturally lit with a long window. Natural light was supplemented with four light-emitting diode (LED) systems, encased in protective covers. The window of the classroom could be opened to provide natural ventilation. The childrens toilet and designated staff toilet were naturally ventilated with windows that could be opened.

The heating system was in operation on the day of inspection and was recorded as being 18°C, within the required temperature range for an early years environment

(d) The classroom was observed to be clean and well maintained and cleaning schedule templates were available to view.

(e) There were sufficient designated toilet units and hand washing facilities available for both the children attending the service and the adult working in the service. There was one toilet and one wash hand basin designated to the children and one toilet and one wash hand basin designated to the staff working in the service. Liquid hand soap and paper towelling were provided in both sanitary areas. The water temperature was controlled and recorded at 32°C.

A nappy changing unit with a stairs ladder was also available in the childrens toilet.

**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 as evidenced by the following:

- (1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the children and adult within the early years service.
- (2) There is an adequate clear floor space of 32 square metres provided in total, in the classroom in the service. This provides adequate clear floor space for each of the eight children that are proposed to attend the part-time service.
- (3) There is a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space available for each of the 11 early years children proposed to attend the service. There is an adequate clear floor space of 23.7 square metres provided in total, in the classroom in the service.
- (4) There is a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space available for each of the 11 early years children attending the sessional early years service and a minimum of 2.35 square metres of clear floor space available for each of the eight early years children remaining for the part-time service.
- (5) Not applicable.