

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2020CC008

Name of Service Classes Childcare

Address of Service: 2 Maryville, Friars Walk, Co. Cork, P12TX9D

Email Address: classeschildcare@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Frances Cunningham

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

Proposed change:

- Change the age group catered for from 0-6 years to 2-6 years.
- To increase the maximum number of children catered for from 25 to 30 children aged from 2 years 6 months to 6 years (ECCE)

Proposed Number of Children: 30 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: 30 Sessional/23 Full Day Care children, age profile 2 years 6 months – 6 years

Registered change: 30 Sessional/23 Full Day Care children, age profile 2 years 6 months – 6 years

Date of Inspection: 2 1 0 8 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: Ms. M O'Reilly

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate
Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus,
Gurranabraher, Cork, T23X440

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Full Day Care to accommodate 30 Sessional/23 Full Day Care, age profile 2 years 6 months – 6 years
Date of Registration	30 th August 2023

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>Classes Childcare is a privately owned early years service that is currently registered to cater for children from 0 to 6 years. From the 28 August 2023, the service proposes to cater for children from 2 to 6 years (cater for children from 2 years 6 months to 6 years. To increase the total number of children the service can cater for at any one time from 25 to 30.</p> <p>The service is open from Monday to Friday between 8am and 5.30pm and includes the children attending Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. There are two playrooms. A modular building /multipurpose room was recently installed to the rear side of the premise.</p>
Premises	<p>The premise is a town house that has been converted into an early years service. The service is located on a busy road in an urban setting within walking distance of Cork city. There are two playrooms and a multipurpose room.</p> <p>One playroom is located on the ground floor with one children’s toilet and a separate nappy changing room. A small size modular building was recently installed to the rear side of the main building and beside the outdoor play area and the registered provider is proposing that this room is a multipurpose room.</p> <p>The second playroom is located on the first floor with one children’s toilet facility located beside the playroom. There is also a kitchen, storeroom, adult toilet and administration office on the ground floor. The children have access to a designated secure outdoor play area located to the rear side of the facility.</p>

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Staffing	There are currently three adults assigned to this service. An adult working in one of the registered providers other early years services relieves staff each day for their lunch break. The registered provider is not serviced based. All adults working directly with the children hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education or an equivalent qualification as per the national framework of qualifications.
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 administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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.

(a)The service had a proposed designated person in charge and a proposed named deputy. The person in charge was present on the day of the fit for purpose inspection.

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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.
- (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:

(1) It is proposed that three to four adults will be employed who will work directly with the children.

The service was in operation at the time of the fit for purpose inspection. There were a total of twelve children in attendance all over two years with the registered provider, the person in charge and two staff in attendance.

(8)

(b) Not applicable as this is not a proposed child-minder service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a proposed single-hand operated 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.
- (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

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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.
- (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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) There are low shelves provided in the playrooms that are accessible to the children. The shelves are stocked with a large selection of activities, equipment and play materials that are all functioning and maintained in good condition. There is a designated outdoor play area available at the service.</p> <p>(1)(b). There were suitable sleep equipment for children over 2 years that required a sleep while attending the service. Stacking beds plus floor mats were available with individual bed linen and the person in charge stated that the bed linen was changed weekly. The sleep equipment when not in use was stored in the storeroom located near the ground floor playroom. There was a designated rest area provided in both playrooms consisting of soft seating and floor mats.</p> <p>(2)(a), (3)(a) There is a designated partially covered outdoor play area provided beside the premise. The outdoor play area has a combination of an all-weather surface, that is an artificial grass surface and a soft wood fibre play grade surface and is completely enclosed with a block wall and a timber fence that is adequately secured when the children are playing outdoors.</p> <p>(3)(b) Not applicable as the children have access to an outdoor play area located beside the facility.</p> <p>(4) +(5) Not applicable as the children have access to an outdoor play area on site.</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 requirement has been met.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The food is provided by the service. While there is a kitchen in the service. A chef located in another of the registered providers early years services prepares and cooks the lunch each day and the foods are transported daily to the service. • It was observed that the children’s drinking bottles were stored at child height ensuring the children had access to drinking water at all times. • There was a menu available. • There was adequate refrigeration present in the service for the storage of perishable foods.
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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:	<p>The requirements have been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main door to the service is secured by a CCTV access control system to reduce the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premises or the leaving of an unsupervised child. Some of the internal doors including the entry door to kitchen has a keypad entry system. • All toys and play equipment in the proposed playrooms are safe and in good condition. • There was thermostatically controlled warm water, antibacterial liquid soap dispensers, choice of paper hand towel or an electric hand drier available at the wash hand basin for hygienic hand washing and hygienic hand drying in the adult and children’s toilet facilities and nappy changing area. • The openable windows on the ground and first floor have restrictive opening devices. • The cords attached to the window blinds are all secured by wall brackets. • Cleaning equipment and materials are stored on a high shelf in each of the playrooms and toilet facilities and are inaccessible to children. • There is a first aid box on the ground and first floor and is stored on a shelf located at adult height in the playroom. • The exit doors are unobstructed.
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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.

(2)

(a) The first aid boxes were stored on a shelf at adult height in the playroom.

(b) The first aid box was adequately stocked and readily accessible by 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 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) (a) The requirement is met in relation to the provision of a form for recording monthly fire drills. Fire drills were taking place monthly and the last recorded monthly fire drill was on the 17/08/2023.

(b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment and wired smoke alarm is available on file.

(4) The service has a designated assembly point in the event of a fire. A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed on the premise.

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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A record of insurance to cover for 33 children is available on file and the insurance will commence on the 28th August 2023.

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 provider proposes to operate a sessional and full day care service in a facility that has been adapted to provide an early years' service.

No mould or cracks are visible.

(b) The entrance door to the preschool is adequately secured to prevent access by an unauthorised adult or exit by a child.

(c) There are openable windows in each of the proposed playrooms. There is a mechanical operated ventilation system in the nappy changing room, children's toilet. The adult/disability toilet has an openable window.

There are an adequate number of fluorescent lights fitted with covers in the proposed playrooms.

Heating is provided by electrically controlled heating and air conditioning system. There is one wall mounted electric fan heater located in the multipurpose room. The playrooms and multipurpose room air temperature and toilet area air temperatures were recorded at 22°C during the inspection.

(d) Cleaning schedules were available, and all the play materials are clean and in good condition.

(e) There are two designated toilets and two wash hand basins provided for the children in attendance. There is one nappy changing room with a wash hand basin available and there is a designated toilet and wash hand basin available for use by the adults. The premise is serviced by a public sewage system and the water source is from a public supply.

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

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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.

(1) The playroom on the ground floor measured 31.91 square meters.

The room can accommodate a maximum of 18 children in the morning (ECCE) sessional service at 1.81 square meters for each child. The children attending part time and full day care the space is 2.35 square meters for children aged between 2 and 3 years and 2.3 square meters for children between 3 and 6 years. The room has space for a maximum of 14 children to attend the playroom in the afternoon.

The playroom on the first floor measured 21.30 square meters. The playroom had sufficient floor space for a maximum of 12 (ECCE) early years' children aged between 3 and 6 years to attend the service each morning. For children attending part time/full day care service in the afternoon the playroom has space to accommodate a maximum of 9 children.

Initially the registered provider proposed to use the modular building as a care room for children however it did not meet the requirements for approval by the registration office and cannot be used by the early years children.

(2) The service had sufficient floor space for 30 (ECCE) early years' service children to attend the service each morning. The ratio of children's toilets and nappy changing units is 11 children to every one toilet and 11 children that require nappy changing to everyone nappy changing facility. There are an adequate number of toilet and nappy changing facilities in the service.

(3) There was adequate space provided for the proposed number of (ECCE) children that will attend each morning.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Not applicable.