

# 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, Cork P12 TX9D

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

**Name of Registered Provider:** Frances Cunningham

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	✓	<b>Part-Time</b>	✓	<b>Sessional</b>	✓
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

**Proposed change:** Change in number of children from 30 (Max 23 Full day care to 45 (Max35 full day/part time) children  
Change in age profile of children from 2 - 6 Years to 1 - 6 years.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 45 Children (Max35 full day/part time)

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Change in number of children from 30(Max 23 Full Day/Part Time to 43(Max 34 Full Day/Part Time  
Age profile of children to remain 2 to 6 years

**Registered change:** Change in number of children from 30(Max 23 Full Day/Part Time to 43(Max 34 Full Day/Part Time  
Age profile of children to remain 2 to 6 years

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	5
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**Inspection undertaken by:** D Prendergast

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork T23 X440.

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### 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, Part Time and Sessional Service for 43(Max 34 Full Day / Part time) children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> November 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Classes Childcare is currently registered to provide full day care, to children aged 2 to 6 years. This includes children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, which is accommodated from 8.30am to 11.30am. Registered daily opening hours are from 7.30am to 6.00pm. However, the service is currently operating until 5.30pm.
<b>Premises</b>	Situated in an urban area, the service operates from a two-storey town house, that has been purposely adapted. There are two care rooms; one located on the ground floor and the second located on the first floor. The ground floor room currently accommodates up to 18 children attending the sessional service, or up to 14 children in full day care. This room has recently been extended and it is now proposed that the number accommodated is increased to 33 children attending the sessional service, or 26 children availing of full day care. There are no changes proposed to the upstairs care room, which can facilitate up to 12 children during the sessional service, or 9 children attending full day care. Children's sanitary facilities are provided either adjoining or adjacent to the care rooms. The setting also includes a kitchen, an office, staff sanitary facilities and a storeroom. The children have the use of a designated outdoor play space at the rear of the building.
<b>Staffing</b>	An increase to six staff members is proposed to accommodate the increased number of children. The registered provider is not based at the premises.
<b>Methodology</b>	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.

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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.
<b>Additional Information</b>	The change in circumstance application proposed that the service would cater for children aged 1 to 6 years. However, during the inspection, the registered provider confirmed that she wished to maintain the current age profile of children i.e. children aged 2 to 6 years.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and staff, 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 registered provider has ensured that there is a person in charge and a deputy assigned to the early years service.

### 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.

During the sessional service, it is proposed that 6 adults will work directly with up to 43 children, across both care rooms, aged 2 ½ to 6 years. Up to 34 of these children may remain for full day care and the registered provider will ensure that the required adult child ratios are maintained. The registered provider has confirmed that there will be a minimum of two adults on the premises at all times.

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—*
- (a) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time 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:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) The care room has been furnished and laid out in consideration of the developmental needs and age range of the children. Interest items such as jigsaws, threading materials, construction toys and animal figures are arranged on low-level, open shelving. Other play resources at child level include musical instruments, a well-stocked play kitchen and a sand tray. Examples of the accessible outdoor equipment include wall mounted drainpipes, water play toys, kitchen utensils and activity tables.

(b) A cosy space, furnished with vinyl seating, a large floor mat and books, has been developed as a rest area in the care room. A supply of sleep mats and linen are held in storage, for children who may require sleep while attending the service.

(2)

(a) A securely enclosed outdoor play area is located at the rear of the premises.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.

Food for the children's snacks will be provided by the service and corresponding menus are available. A cook will be allocated the role of preparing and cooking the daily hot meal and the snacks. In the event that alternative or additional snacks are required, a supply of appropriate foods will be maintained. A fridge is accessible in the kitchen, for the storage of perishables. Appropriate crockery and cutlery is available for children's use at mealtimes. Should a child become thirsty during the day, they will have access to drinking water.

### 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.

##### General safety:

- Window blind cords are securely anchored with suitable tension devices.
- Cleaning agents are stored on high level shelves, which are inaccessible to children.
- Warm water temperatures were thermostatically controlled, so as not to exceed 43°C.
- All examined toys and play equipment are maintained in good condition.
- Fire extinguishers are wall mounted.
- Fire exit doors are maintained free from obstruction and fire exit signage is illuminated.

##### Infection control:

- Warm running water, liquid soap and either an electric hand dryer or paper towels, are provided at each of the wash hand basins across the service.
- A supply of cleaning agents and equipment is available.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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) Two of the staff members hold in-date First Aid Responder (FAR) certification. The registered provider is aware that a FAR trained adult must be available to the children throughout the hours of operation.
- (2)
- (a) The suitably stocked first aid box is located in an area that is out of reach of children, while easily accessible to adults.
  - (b) The first aid supplies will be consistently available, should they be required.

### 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) Record templates are in place to document the fire drills that will be conducted.
  - (b) Records of commissioning for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms are respectively dated 22 October 2025 and 16 October 2025.
- (4) The service’s fire evacuation procedure, which contains details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire, is clearly displayed in the care room.  
Signage highlighting the fire assembly point is clearly visible.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.  
Adequate insurance cover is in place for the full day care service and is valid until 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 has been met.

(a) From a visual assessment, the premises appears to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) The main entrance door is secured via a keypad, with a doorbell in place for parents and visitors. This safety precaution will reduce the risk of unauthorised entry. Keypads are also in place at the entrances to the kitchen and the office. The outdoor play space is enclosed by walls and fencing.

(c)

- A supply of natural light through windows, is available in the care room. This is supplemented with artificial LED lighting, encased in protective covers. Adequate lighting has also been ensured in the other areas of the service, including in the sanitary facilities and kitchen.
- A heating/air conditioning split system is in place. Recorded air temperatures in the care room and sanitary facilities fell within the required range of 18°C to 22°C.
- Openable windows provide a natural source of ventilation in the care room. There is mechanical ventilation in the children’s sanitary facilities, with an openable window also available in of these areas. The staff sanitary area has an openable window.

(d) A cleaning schedule has been developed to record regular cleaning of the care rooms and sanitary areas within the service. The care rooms and the adjacent sanitary facilities are maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

(e) There is a total of four children’s toilets and four adjacent wash hand basins

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

available at the service. The registered provider has advised that all of the children will be toilet trained and therefore a nappy changing unit will not be required. A staff toilet facility, with one toilet and one wash hand basin is available for use by the adults. The setting is serviced by a public water 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 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).

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) There is sufficient clear floor space available for the free movement of children within the care room, during work and play time.
- (2) The care room was measured at 56.26m<sup>2</sup>. There is adequate space to accommodate 31 children attending the sessional service, or 25 children attending full day care, if all of these children are aged over 3 years. However, if all of the children are aged 2 to 3 years, 24 children can be accommodated to attend full day care.

(3) & (4)

The registered provider proposes to contemporaneously accommodate children attending the sessional service and the full day care service. The care room allows for each of the 31 children attending the sessional service, to have a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space during this time.