

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2020DL002							
<b>Name of Service</b>	Blossom Academy							
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Durmaweir, Greencastle, Donegal, F93 VXA9							
<b>Email Address:</b>	blossomacademy2020@hotmail.com							
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Helen Gillen, Louise McCrudden							
<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>			
<b>Proposed change:</b>	The service proposes to increase the number of children that can be accommodated from 22 to 44 at any one time. It is proposed that the children will be accommodated in an additional care room within the building.							
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	44							
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	Change in Number of Children that can be accommodated from 22 to 44 Children							
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in Number of Children that can be accommodated from 22 to 44 Children							
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	9	0	7	2	0	2	4
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L Mc Glynn							
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector							
<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94							

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### Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day & Part-Time Service for 44 Children
Date of Registration	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2024

### 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>	Blossom Academy is a privately owned and operated preschool service located within the community centre in the townland of Drumaweir, Greencastle in County Donegal. The service is registered to provide full day care for children aged 2 to 6 years and operates between 8.00am and 6.00pm each weekday. The service is also registered to provide school age care.
<b>Premises</b>	The service currently operates from a room on the ground floor of a two-storey community centre premises. The accommodation includes one playroom at the rear of the centre with adjoining office, kitchenette, storeroom and sanitary facilities. The service proposes to operate from an additional room, access to which is gained from an interconnecting lobby area.
<b>Staffing</b>	There are two registered providers, both of whom work in the service on a daily basis. In addition to this, there are three other staff members employed to work directly with the children.
<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 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.</p>

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	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>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.

<b>Part III - Management and Staff</b>	
<b>Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment</b>	
<i>(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.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	(1) (a) This requirement has been met.  The two registered providers are the named adults in charge of the daily operation of the service and can deputise in the event of each other’s absence.

<b>Part III - Management and Staff</b>	
<b>Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels</b>	
<i>(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.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirements of this regulation have been met.  (1) The service proposes to accommodate a maximum of 44 children ranging in age from 2 to 6 years with five staff members employed. The registered provider confirmed their knowledge of the required adult child ratios and their adherence to same dependant on the numbers of children enrolled to attend each day.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

#### (1)(a)

Adequate and suitable indoor play facilities were in place for the number and age range of children proposed to be catered for. There were two large playrooms within the service, both of which presented as bright and visually appealing spaces. There was an orderly arrangement of play equipment and materials set into clearly defined areas of interest within both rooms. These included arts and crafts, construction, small world toys, dressing up props, play kitchen areas, library, messy play tables, relaxing area, problem solving and wide range of manipulate play resources. Open low level shelving units enabled all items to be readily accessible to the children while suitable sized tables and chairs were available for tabletop activities.

#### (1)(b)

Adequate and suitable rest facilities were available. Three stackable floor beds with supply of clean bed linen were maintained in the storeroom. The rooms contained areas with comfortable seating for children to relax during the day.

#### (2)(a) (b)

A safe and suitable outdoor play area was provided on the premises. A fenced area off the entrance area to the facility was set aside for children's play. Ground cover

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consisted of level grass throughout. A large sit in wooden ship, giant tyres, football nets and mud/play kitchen were provided. A sheltered area at the top of the outdoor area contained art, sensory play and manipulative play materials. The registered provider stated that this area is used as an 'outdoor classroom'.

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

It was stated that children would be provided with meals prepared on site in the service kitchen. There were adequate facilities for cooking, refrigeration and food storage available in the kitchen. The service has a healthy eating policy and a weekly menu plan in place detailing a range of nutritious meals and snacks at appropriately timed intervals.

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

- The main entrance door had a lock system preventing unauthorised access or the unsupervised exit of a child. The doors leading to each care room contained a separate high level keypad security system.
- The outdoor play area was secured with surround fencing and a single exit gate. A second gate was provided which separated access to the front of the building and the main road.
- The emergency evacuation route from the pre-school rooms was easily identifiable by emergency exit signage. All designated emergency exits were observed to be clear and unobstructed.

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- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at the wash hand basins in the service’s sanitary accommodation.
- All toys and play resources were noted to be clean, in good repair and were appropriate for children’s use.
- There were no electrical hazards observed.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available throughout the service and the main waste storage bins were in a secure area away from the children’s play areas.
- Cleaning products were maintained in the storeroom off the kitchen which children could not access and on a high-level shelf in the lobby of the sanitary accommodation.

### 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—
- 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.

- (1) There were four staff members with certification in first aid for children, all of which had an expiry date in July 2025.
- (2) (a) A first aid box was positioned on a high-level bracket in the playrooms. These contained all of the quantities and contents as recommended under current national guidance.

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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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	This requirement has been partially met.  (1)(a) There was a mechanism in place for recording fire drills.  (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment firefighting equipment was dated in November 2023.  (4) The registered provider confirmed the exit route and procedures to be followed. A notice of which was displayed at the exit point of the room.
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	(1) (b) A record of the maintenance of the smoke alarm was not available on the day of inspection.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	(1) (b) A record of the maintenance of the smoke alarm was obtained from the landlord.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	This requirement has been met.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection.  The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.
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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:

- (a) On superficial visual inspection, the building appeared of sound and stable structure with no visible defects. The registered provider confirmed that they had no concerns about the structure or stability of the building.
- (b) The area of the community centre occupied by the service had its own entrance. The main entrance door was secured with a lock mechanism, while the entrance door to the playroom contained a high-level keypad mechanism. The exit doors in the building and exit gate from the outdoor play area were secured in a manner which prevented children from exiting unsupervised or unauthorised adults from entering.
- (c) Adequate lighting was provided. Natural lighting consisted of four large glass windows, glass panelled emergency exit door and glass panel in the entrance door in the playroom. Artificial lights consisted of insert ceiling panel lights. All lights were encased in protective covers. An adequate source of heating was provided in the playroom and sanitary accommodation. This consisted of underfloor oil-fired heating. The air temperature was within the recommended 18 -22°C range.
- (d) The premises presented as clean and subject to routine maintenance work as required.
- (e) The sanitary facilities in the service were adequately equipped with wash hand basins and toilets for the number of adults and children that will be in attendance. There were five toilets, six wash hand basins and one nappy changing bench available for children’s use.

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<b>Requirement not met:</b>	(c) It could not be determined from the observations on inspection that there was a functioning mechanical ventilation system or alternative ventilation in the children’s sanitary accommodation.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	(c) The mechanical ventilation was repaired and is now in working order as confirmed by the landlord.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	This requirement has been met.

### 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirements for this regulation have been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space was provided in the pre-school rooms for the work, play and movement of the 44 children that they are proposed to accommodate.</p> <p>(2) There was no change to the layout of unit 1 therefore it was not measured on this inspection. Previous inspection records evidenced a clear floor space available to accommodate up to 22 children.</p> <p>Unit 2 measured 111.10m<sup>2</sup> of clear floor space which was adequate to cater for the proposed number of 22 children.</p>
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