

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2020DL004

**Name of Service** Laugh and Learn Childcare

**Address of Service:** Foyleside, Tromaty, Quigley's Point, Donegal, F93 KHHI

**Email Address:** carrie2004\_18@hotmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Carrie Orr

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

<b>Proposed change:</b>	The service is proposing to increase the number of children that can be accommodated from 35 to 57 at any one time. It is proposed that the additional 22 children will be cared for in a newly developed prefabricated unit on the premises. The children attending the new unit will be aged 2-6 years and will attend a sessional service from 9.00am-12.00md or 12.15pm-3.15pm.
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	57
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	It is recommended to approve the proposed change.
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 35 to 57

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	4	0	9	2	0	2	3
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**Inspection undertaken by:** L Mc Glynn  
**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94

### 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 Care Service for 57 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2023

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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>	Laugh and Learn Childcare is a privately owned and operated early years' service situated in an area off a caravan park on the shores of Lough Foyle in north Donegal. The service currently provides full day care from 8.00am-6.30pm each weekday and a morning and afternoon sessional service from 9.00am-12.00md and 12.15pm-3.15pm. The service caters for children aged 0-6 years and is also registered to provide a school age service.
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The existing service operates from a dedicated converted section of a single-story building and includes two indoor playrooms, a kitchenette, a sleep room, an office and sanitary facilities.</p> <p>The service is proposing to operate an additional sessional service from a standalone single story prefabricated unit located on the site of the preschool. The building is directly accessed from the outdoor play area and contains one large care room and sanitary accommodation for children.</p> <p>Children attending the service have access to a number of outdoor play areas including an outdoor sheltered area, a cycle/running area and a garden area and a large polytunnel classroom.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	In addition to the existing staff, it is proposed that there will be a minimum of two staff members working with the children in the new unit. The registered provider is on the premises and works 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</p>

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	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>Acknowledgements</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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. The registered provider is the designated person in charge of the daily operation of the service. A second adult working with children attending the pre-school service has been designated as the named person to deputise in the event of the registered provider's absence.

### 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 requirements of this regulation have been met.

(1) The registered provider proposes to accommodate a maximum of 22 children ranging in age from 2 to 6 years attending the pre-school service on a sessional basis. There are two named adults employed to care for the children which is adequate provision in line with the minimum ratio of adults to children specified by this regulation.

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:**

The findings documented relate to an assessment of the new prefabricated unit to be used as a sessional preschool. The two rooms in the existing building were not included as they were not subject to change as part of this application.

(1)(a)

There were adequate and suitable indoor play facilities in place for the age range of children proposed to be catered for. One large playroom was assigned for use by children attending the sessional service. This room presented as a bright and visually appealing space and was resourced with a range of play materials and equipment laid out in defined interest areas to facilitate meaningful play activities. Interest areas included a reading/cosy corner, dress up area, doll and baby care area, construction materials, kitchen/home area and a space for painting and art. Child height shelving and storage units contained a range of resources to support children’s cognitive development and fine motor skills such as jigsaws, puzzles, connectors and peg boards.

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Low level tables and chairs were available to both support children’s play and provide appropriate seating for mealtimes.

(1)(b)

There were adequate rest facilities available. A soft couch and floor cushions were available in the cosy corner for children to rest or relax during the session.

(2) (a) and (b)

The outdoor play area adjacent to the unit was framed with trees and willow hedging with bark chip ground surfacing. The area known as the ‘garden area’ contained a number of play areas including a well-developed mud kitchen, digging areas, climb and slide unit, balancing toys and a sheltered area used for small group art and crafts, messy play and tabletop play.

To the rear of the unit there was a polytunnel which was laid out in a playroom style with a number of interest areas and play materials to cater for pre-school age children. The registered provider confirmed that children will have access to both these areas when attending the service.

### 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:

It is proposed that children will bring their lunch from home. The service has a healthy eating policy in place and the registered provider stated that they have provided guidance to parents on suggested foods for children’s lunch. Potable water was available in the room and will be made available to children along with their drinking bottles from home.

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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:

The following safety provisions were noted to be in place on the day of inspection:

- The main entrance into the premises was safely secured preventing children exiting unsupervised or persons gaining unauthorised entry. The perimeter of the area outside the prefabricated unit was secured with wooden fencing which incorporated gates with closing mechanisms.
- The emergency evacuation route from the pre-school room was identified by illuminated emergency exit signage. All designated emergency exits were observed to be clear and unobstructed.
- All toys and play resources available on the day of inspection were noted to be clean, in good repair and appropriate for the age range of children proposed to attend the service.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available in the pre-school room and sanitary facilities. The service’s central waste storage facilities were out of reach of children in an outside area that was inaccessible to the children from their outdoor play area.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at the wash hand basins in the service’s sanitary accommodation.
- Two refrigerators were available to facilitate the safe storage of perishable food items brought from home and a sink was available in the room to support staff to engage in effective hygiene practices.
- The registered provider confirmed that the services of an external company have been employed to monitor rodent activity in the outdoor play area.
- Templates for recording daily cleaning activities were available and displayed in the premises to help ensure that regular cleaning was carried out and documented.

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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.

(1) The registered provider confirmed that a number of staff have completed appropriate training in first aid for children, at least one of which will be rostered to be on the premises at all times.

(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in a conspicuous position in the room. This was easily accessible to the staff should a child who they were caring for in the service require first aid treatment.

### 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:

This requirement has been 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 and smoke alarm system was maintained. The most recent maintenance record for

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	<p>firefighting equipment was dated August 2023 and for smoke alarms was dated September 2023.</p> <p>(4) The registered provider confirmed the exit route and procedures to be followed. A notice of which is to be displayed the exit point of the building.</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:

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.

### 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 visual inspection of the premises, the building was found to be of sound and stable structure and there were no obvious defects.
- (b) The premises and outdoor play areas were secured with lock mechanisms on both the outside and inside of each gate. Signage around the access points to the

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building detailed the provision of an early years' service and prohibited unrestricted access. Emergency exit doors were clear, free from obstruction could not be opened from the outside.

(c) Natural lighting was facilitated by way of glass panelled windows supplemented with fluorescent ceiling light fittings with protective covers.

Heating was provided via electric heaters the surface temperature of which was found to be below the maximum safe level of 50°C. The air temperature in the care room and sanitary accommodation the day of inspection registered within the recommended 18 -22°C range. Ventilation was provided in the care room and sanitary accommodation by way of openable windows which was further supplemented in the sanitary accommodation by mechanical ventilation.

(d) The premises presented as clean and well maintained. The outdoor areas and equipment were well maintained with no obvious hazards identified. The staff informed the inspector that rodent activity with the indoor areas and the outdoor play areas is monitored with an external company providing assistance with same.

(e) Two toilets and two wash hand basins were provided for children off the playroom. Each toilet cubicle was sufficiently enclosed to ensure adequate privacy. A third wash hand basin was available in the room for children's use. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water was available in the hand wash basins used by children.

### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

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(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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children.

(2) The clear floor space in the room measured 41.28m<sup>2</sup>. This meets the space requirements for the proposed number of 22 pre-school children attending to avail of the service's sessional childcare provision.