

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2020GY006

Name of Service Teddy House Creche

Address of Service: Leas na Mara, Ballymoneen road, Knocknacarra, Co Galway, H91 X6WR

Email Address: carliehealy@hotmail.com
teddyhousegalway@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Carlie Healy

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

Proposed change: Change in number of children accommodate from 40-48

Proposed Number of Children: 48 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Full day care service, for 48 children, age range 1-6 years of age, from 8.00-18.00

Registered change: Change in number of children from 40 to 48 children

Date of Inspection: 1 7 0 6 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: F. Nic Dhonnacha

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A- (1st Floor-Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 48 Children
Date of Registration	17 th July 2025

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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).

Description of Service	<p>This private purpose-built ground floor building is located in Knocknacarra, Galway city. This preschool offers a full day care from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs and part time care provision from 9.00hrs to 13.00hrs. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes and sessional care programmes are also offered. The service is registered for pre-school children aged 1 to 6 years of age. The premises has its own kitchen, where children’s main meals and snacks are prepared, cooked and stored on site. There is a secure outdoor play area to the front and side of the premises for children’s play, exploration and fresh air. A child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on emerging interests and Montessori is provided.</p>
Premises	<p>The premises consists of three playrooms namely the Toddler room (this room caters for children aged between 1 and 2 years of age); the Playgroup room (this room caters for children between 2 and 3 years of age) and the Montessori room (this room caters for children aged between 3 and 5 years of age). Each playroom has direct access to the outdoor play area. In each playroom, quiet rest areas with child size seating and soft matting are available for children to rest or opt out of an activity if they wish to do so. Six cots and stackable beds are available for sleep provision. It is proposed that that the preschool children will have daily access to the outdoor play area. It is proposed that the designated outdoor play area is for further development over the summer months.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider works between this service and the nearby partner services. The preschool proposes to have a named person in charge and a named designated deputy person in charge. The service proposes to have eight staff providing direct care to the children each day during the hours of operation; additionally, there will be a cook and an auxiliary person who works after hours.</p>
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)</p>

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	<p>(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 are based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation and discussion with relevant staff. These findings are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when deciding to register 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:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met. The service has a proposed designated person in charge and a proposed named deputy.

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:

(1) It is proposed there will be a maximum of 48 pre-school children aged 1 year to 6 years of age, being cared for by 8 staff members in the full day care service.
It is proposed that the minimum adult child ratio will be maintained.

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- (8)(b) Not applicable, as the pre-school is not a child-minding service.
- (c) The pre-school service proposes to always have a minimum of two staff members on the premises during the operation of the full day care 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
- (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 registered provider has provided the registration office with a plan regarding the building layout.
 - It is proposed that adequate and suitable facilities will be offered for play in the full day care service.
 - The playrooms were comfortable, clean, visually pleasing and inviting. They had been laid out to accommodate the needs of the children and staff in the

service. Adequate space was provided for children to play both indoors and outdoors.

- The playrooms had various interest areas that were fully accessible to the children, both visually and physically.

(b)

- Adequate facilities for rest were proposed to be provided in the service for the number and age range of children attending.
- The proposed playrooms had soft seating areas to allow children rest and relax, when required. In addition, there was a designated sleep room for the children under two years of age with six cots. Additionally, stackable beds and sleep mats were available for sleep provision for children over two years of age.

(2)(b)

- The registered provider ensured that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor play area will be available to the pre-school children at the front and side of the premises. It is proposed that all children will have daily access the outdoor area.
- Outdoor play area surfaces consisted of a combination of grass, pebbles and concrete.
- There was a selection of play equipment and materials proposed for the outdoor play area.
- It is proposed that additional outdoor play equipment and materials will be stored in the designated storage containers outside.

(3)(a)

- Arrangements were in place for the children to play outdoors daily. The outdoor space was observed to be suitable and secure. No safety hazards noted on the day of inspection. It was acknowledged that the registered provider has plans to re develop the area over the coming months.

(3)(b) Not applicable.

(4) Not applicable.

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(5) Not applicable.

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 is proposed that the preschool service will provide the snacks and main meals for the children attending the preschool service.
- The service had a healthy eating policy which will be shared with the parents at the start of each preschool term.
- The preschool proposes to offer breakfast, a mid-morning snack, a hot dinner, an afternoon meal and a mid-afternoon snack.
- A fridge will be available should any child bring perishable items to the preschool service.
- Water and milk will be offered at each snack and mealtime. The children will have access to their drinking bottle throughout the day in each playroom.
- Alternative foods will be offered if there is a child who are fussy or dislike certain foods.

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.

- The internal playrooms and main entrance door were secured to prevent the general public having access to children and ensuring children could not exit the service unsupervised.
- Emergency doors were unobstructed to ensure the safe evacuation in the event of a fire or other emergency.

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- In the outdoor play area, there were no pits or ponds to cause any risk of danger to preschool children.
- All flexes, cables and cords were out of reach of children and/or secured.
- Storage areas were secure and thereby inaccessible to prevent preschool children having access to chemicals or cleaning agents.
- A health and safety policy was available which included a daily risk assessment system for the indoor and outdoor environment.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- There was a cleaning schedule available and a sample cleaning record for the playrooms, sanitary area, kitchen and outdoor play area.
- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water was available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing with a temperature reading of less than 43°C.
- Foot pedalled lidded bins were available in the playrooms and sanitary area.
- Two designated nappy changing areas were available and equipped with clean intact changing mats, steps up, aprons, gloves and a designated wash hand basin.

SAFE SLEEP:

- There was child size soft seating where children could rest or relax if they so choose. The service had stackable beds and floor mats to provide sleep facilities for the children. In addition, there was a designated sleep room with six cots.

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—

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(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) A record of first aid responder (FAR) training was available for two adults working in the preschool service.
- (2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was readily available and was stored in an easily accessible position in the premises. All contents were in date.

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:

- (1) (a) There was a fire drill record available and proposed plans for monthly fire drills.
(b) Records were available in relation to the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment with the annual certificate dated 28/02/2025.
The smoke and fire detection alarms on the premises had the last annual service date of 28/02/2025.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

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.
The service had adequate insurance in place for a full day care service with a maximum of 48 preschool children with an expiry date of 27/03/2026.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

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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 inspection the premises was of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The indoor and outdoor play areas were safe and secure. There was a secure system at the main entrance doors into the preschool rooms and main entrance. In addition, the outdoor play area had secure gates in place.
- (c)
 - Adequate ceiling lights and natural light was available throughout the service. There were full size glass doors with direct access to the outdoor play area in each of the three playrooms.
 - The playrooms were well ventilated by means of mechanical ventilation and openable doors.
 - The heating was thermostatically controlled by an air to water heating system to ensure the playrooms stayed within the recommended temperature of between 18°C and 22°C.
- (d)
 - The proposed play materials and work equipment were clean and in good repair.
 - Cleaning equipment was safely stored in secure cupboards and inaccessible to the pre-school children. There were proposed cleaning schedules presented for the full day care service.
- (e)
 - Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.
 - The pre-school service had a total of four designated children’s toilets and four designated children’s wash hand basins.

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- Additionally, there were two designated nappy changing areas with two wash hand basins. Clean intact nappy changing mats were available and airtight, foot pedalled, lidded, lined nappy bins.
- One staff toilet and one wash hand basin were available.
- Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels were within easy access to a pre-school child.
- Foot pedal lidded bins were provided in the sanitary areas.

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 sessional pre-school service, and*
 - 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) Adequate floor space was provided in the playrooms for the free movement of children to work and play.
- (2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children attending the full day care service in respect of the age range of the children attending.
Age 1-2 years – 2.8 square metres per child.

	<p>Age 2-3 years- 2.35 square metres per child. Age 3-6 years- 2.30 square metres per child.</p> <p>(3) The registered provider will ensure a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child attending the sessional service.</p> <p>(4)(a)(b) The measurements of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Playroom 1</u> Montessori room is 48.18 square meters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximum of 22 children attending a sessional service and 21 children proposed to attend a full day care service, ▪ Age range 3-6 years of age. • <u>Playroom 2</u> Toddler room is 29.88 square meters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximum of 10 children proposed to attend a full day care service ▪ Age range 1- 2years. • <u>Playroom 3</u> Playgroup room is 44.87 square meters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximum of 19 children proposed to attend on a full day care service ▪ Age range 2-3 years. <p>- A minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service.</p> <p>- A minimum of 2.8 square metres of clear floor space will be available for children aged 1 to 2 years, proposing to attend the full day care service.</p> <p>- A minimum of 2.35 square metres of clear floor space will be available for children aged 2 to 3 years, proposing to attend the full day care service.</p> <p>- A minimum of 2.3 square meters of clear floor space will be available for children aged 3-6 years, proposing to attend the part time/full day care service.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable, as this preschool proposes to operate a full day care pre-school service.</p>
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