

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2020KY001

Name of Service: Caherslee Childcare Services

Address of Service: Alandale House, Pluckeen, Caherslee, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Email Address: Smith.lorraine77@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Lorraine Smith

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| Type of Proposed Service: | Sessional | ✓ | Part-Time | ✓ | Drop-In | |
| | Full Day Care | ✓ | Childminding | | Temporary | |

Proposed change:

Proposal to

1. Change the service name and address to Alandale House, Caherslee Childcare Services, Pluckeen, Caherslee, Tralee.
2. Change in the service type from childminder to sessional, part-time and a full day care service.
3. Change in the number of children to be accommodated from 5 children to 16 children
4. Change in the age profile of children from 0 to 3 years to aged from 2 years to 6 years.

Proposed Number of Children: Increase from 5 children to 16 children

Registered change:

Service Name: Caherslee Childcare Services
 Service Address: Alandale House, Pluckeen, Caherslee, Tralee
 Type of service: Full day care, Part time, Sessional
 Number of children: 16
 Age profile of children: 2 to 6 years

Date of Inspection: 1 7 0 8 2 0 2 1

Inspection undertaken by: N. Reidy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Áras An Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.



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Rationale for Inspection :

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

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| Registration Status: | Registered Full Day Care, Part time and Sessional service for 16 children |
| Date of Registration | 10 th September 2021 |

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).

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| Description of Service | This service is currently registered as a Childminding service and is located in an urban setting. A service is provided to children aged between 0 and 3 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 6 pm. |
| Premises | The premise is a semi-detached two storey house operating from the ground floor with a designated fully enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear of the house. |
| Staffing | There are 3 adults working in the service including the registered provider. |
| 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 two themes; Governance, and Safety.</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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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 who was 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.*

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| Requirement met: | The requirement has been met. (1)(a) The registered provider is the named person in charge and there is a deputy who will be able to deputise as required. |
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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.*

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| Requirement met: | The requirement has been met. (1) The registered provider has proposed that a minimum of 2 adults will be working directly with the children at all times on a daily basis. (8)(b) The registered provider has a second person working with her on a daily basis. (c) Not applicable as the registered provider is not operating the service single-handedly. |
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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.*

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- (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.

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| Requirement met: | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The indoor space has areas of interest with some low level open shelving where some of the equipment and materials are available and accessible to the children. Additional play materials are stored within the cupboards in the room the registered provider said that the play equipment and materials will be rotated in line with the age and emerging interests of the children attending.</p> <p>(b) The provider demonstrated 4 stackable beds provided for use in a designated space near the low level child sized couch and soft cushions in the playroom where the room can be darkened via the blinds on the window. When not in use the said beds will be stored in an upstairs room.</p> <p>(2)(b) Not applicable as the service has been set up post commencement of the Early Years Services, Regulations 2016 and has not moved. There is a designated fully enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear of the premise.</p> <p>(3)(a) The outdoor play area that is accessible directly from the playroom is suitable and is fully enclosed. The area consists of partially concrete slabs and artificial grass. An overhead canopy area is in place over the artificial grass which has been constructed since the last inspection of the service.</p> <p>(b) Not applicable as the outdoor space is on the premises.</p> <p>(4) Not applicable as this service will not be a temporary service.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable as this service will not be a temporary service.</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.

A fridge for the storage of perishable food items is provided on the premise.

The registered provider informed the inspector that the parents/guardians provide all meals and snacks for the children attending the service.

There is a microwave for the re-heating of food within the kitchenette where there are low level cupboards, a small worktop area and a sink with hot and cold water that is located adjacent to the play area to the rear of the premise.

The children will have access to drinking water at all times throughout the day which will be available from the cold tap in the kitchenette. A drinks station with the children's labelled bottles will be in place in the playroom.

The registered provider informed the inspector that she has plans to install a kitchen with a sink, a dishwasher, a washing machine and a hob in an upstairs room. The inspector advised her to contact the local Environmental Health Department regarding her facilities for food provision of and the plans for kitchen facilities upstairs.

A Healthy Eating Policy in place in the service.

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 external door was secure.

A secure child gate was in place at the bottom of the stairs in the hallway.

A combination lock closure device was in place on the entrance door to the playroom.

The cleaning agents were stored in secure presses in the play room and on high shelving in the sanitary accommodation.

The television and its cables were securely mounted high up on the wall in the playroom.

The toys, fixtures and fittings appeared to be clean and in a good condition.

The hot water provided is thermostatically controlled at the wash hand basins and the water temperature was recorded between 30 and 35 degrees Celsius on the day of inspection.

Liquid hand soap, disposable paper hand towels and pedal operated lidded bins are in place near the sink in the kitchenette and near the wash hand basins in both the adult and children's sanitary accommodation.

Hand sanitiser is provided at the main entrance door and stored on a high shelf in the playroom.

Cleaning schedules are in place for the toys and the premise fixtures and fittings.

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| Requirement not met: | 1. The entrance door to the kitchenette with the low level door handle was not secure. |
| Response from Provider: | A high level latch was fitted to secure the door. |
| Summary Comment: | A photograph of the said door with the latch attached was submitted. The requirement has been met. The above will be examined at the next inspection. |

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*

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| Requirement met: | The requirement has been met. (1) The 2 adults who work in the service have up to date Certification for First Aid. (2)(a) (b) There is a suitably equipped first aid box available that is stored within a high level cupboard in the playroom. |
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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.*

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| Requirement met: | (1) The requirement has been met. (1)(a) The registered provider has provision for recording of fire drills that take place in the service on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place on 11/08/'21. (b) A record of the number and type of the fire fighting equipment is available. The maintenance record available for the fire extinguisher in the playroom is dated 04/08/'21 and the second fire extinguisher located in the entrance hallway was purchased on 16/08/'21 as per the invoice on file. The maintenance record for the smoke alarms is dated 20/08/'21. (4) A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed in the service. |
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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

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| Requirement met: | The requirement has been met. A record of insurance cover for 22 children is available on the premises. The expiry date for the insurance is 28/02/'22. |
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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.*

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| Requirement met: | The requirement has been partially met. (a) From a visual inspection the building appears to be of sound and stable structure. (b) The premise was safe and secure on the day of the inspection. (c) Natural lighting was provided through the windows in the pre-school room and this was supplemented with artificial enclosed strip lighting. The temperature of the playroom was recorded at 20 degrees Celsius and the temperature of the children's sanitary accommodation was recorded at 19 degrees Celsius. There were thermostatically controlled radiators in place in the playroom, and in the children's sanitary accommodation. The play room and the sanitary accommodation were ventilated by means of the open-able windows. (d) From observation on the day of the inspection the premise, play equipment and furniture appeared to be clean and in a good condition. (e) There are 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins located in the playroom for children's use. There is 1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin available for the adult's use located upstairs. |
| Requirement not met: | (d) The flooring in the kitchenette is timber that is not smooth and did not have a protective varnish coating. It was acknowledged the registered provider informed the inspector she has plans to place lino covering on the said floor. (e) The nappy changing facilities were not adequate. The facilities in place consisted of a nappy changing mat for use on the floor space outside the toilet cubicle doors. |
| Response from Provider: | (d) Lino was fitted on the floor. (e) A folding wall mounted changing unit suitable for children up to 3 years 6 months (a weight of 50lbs) compliant with manufacturer's fitting instructions was fitted outside one of the toilet cubicles. The changing table is waist height and there is a |

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| | secure shelf on the left wall of the table that children cannot reach which holds aprons, face masks, disposable gloves, antibacterial wipes, nappy wipes and nappy bags. The changing table will be used in the afternoons there will be no more than 11 children in the service attending in the afternoon. The second toilet cubicle is easily accessible to the children along with the sink, soap dispenser and paper hand towels. |
| Summary Comment: | A photograph of the nappy changing unit was received and an invoice for the lino. The requirement has been met. These items will be examined at the next inspection. |

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).*
- (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 is available in the proposed playroom for the work, play and movement of the children in the service.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 for full day care services has been met. The playroom measured 27.76 square metres.

(3) Not applicable as this is being assessed with the proposal to being a full day care service.

(4)(a) The service has adequate floor space for 15 children attending the service on a sessional ECCE basis. The registered provider informed the inspector that she proposes to cater for 15 ECCE children.

(b) The service has adequate floor space for the numbers of children proposing to attend on a full day care basis.

(5) Not applicable as this service is not a drop-in-service.