

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2020LH001

Name of Service Clever Clogs

Address of Service: St. Olivers National School, Ballmakenny Rd., Drogheda, Co. Louth.

Email Address: barbara.rothwell@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Barbara Rothwell

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: To increase the numbers of children attending the service from 44 to 88. An additional 44 children will be accommodated in two additional prefabricated buildings.

Proposed Number of Children: 88

Recommended Change Following Inspection: To increase the numbers of children attending the service from 44 to 88. An additional 44 children will be accommodated in two additional prefabricated buildings.

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 44 to 88

Date of Inspection: 1 8 0 1 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: AM Cunningham

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Family Resource Centre, Commons Road Navan, Co. Meath

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care Service for 88 Children
Date of Registration	23 rd February 2024

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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>Clever Clogs Pre-school service is one of three privately-owned Early Years services operated by the registered provider in Drogheda Co. Louth. The service caters for pre-school children from 2 to 6 years and also provides a school aged service. The service operates from 08:00am to 6.00pm (including a sessional service from 08.45am to 11.45am) from Monday to Friday and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.</p> <p>The service is registered to operate from 2 care rooms in a pre-fabricated building on the grounds of St Oliver's National School namely The Caterpillar Room Group 1 and the Butterfly Room.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes the following: To increase the number of children attending the service from 44 to 88. These additional 44 children ranging in age from 2.8 years to school aged will be accommodated in two additional prefabs.</p>
Premises	<p>The service is operated from two prefabricated buildings on the grounds of St Olivers National School.</p> <p>Two additional prefabricated buildings have been placed in this area.</p> <p>The two existing rooms are Caterpillar room 1 and Butterfly room. The two additional rooms proposed are Caterpillar room 2 which proposes to accommodate children aged 2 years 8 months to 3 years 6 months and the non ECCE room which proposes to cater for children aged 2 years to 3 years. A kitchen area is available within Caterpillar Room 1, nappy changing facilities and sanitary accommodation.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are twelve staff employed in the service. The area manager was present and facilitated the inspection.</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) (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. 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>
Additional Information	<p>The service was found to be operating from one of the additional prefab buildings prior to approval from the Registration Office.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the area manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 service has designated person in charge and a 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.

Requirement met:

The requirements have been met.
(1) The area manager was aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 is maintained at all times to ensure that an adequate number of adults work directly with the pre-school children in the 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.

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.
Play materials and equipment in the two prefabricated buildings are visible and easily accessible to the children on open shelving at their height which supports children to have choices in selecting materials and equipment to play with. Tables and chairs in the room are appropriate to the age and stage of development of pre-school children attending the room. The room has areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts and a range of suitable toys.

(b) The requirement has been met.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

A cosy area is available in the rooms for children to take a break from activities if needed. There will be no children requiring sleep in these rooms at the moment.

(2)(a) The requirement has been met.

The outdoor space for the buildings is enclosed with fencing and gates and has an artificial grass surface.

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.

An outside catering company provides dinner that is heated in the service. A menu plan is available for parents to view. The children will bring their own morning and afternoon snacks.

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.

- A fridge is available for the storage of perishable items in the children’s lunch boxes.
- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The front door will be secured and opened solely by a member of staff to control access to the service. A keypad was present on the main entrance doors.
- Gates at the outdoor area are secured, fencing and walls surround the outdoor areas.
- All storage areas have been made inaccessible to pre-school children.

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.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>(1) The service provided evidence that three staff members had up to date First Aid Responders (FAR) course. The area manager gave assurance that one would be on at all times.</p> <p>(2)(a) Suitably stocked first aid boxes were provided in the service and was located in a secure but accessible place.</p> <p>(b) The first aid box was available to the pre-school children at all times.</p>
--	--

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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>A record sheet was available to record fire drills.</p> <p>(b) A maintenance certificate for the fire extinguishers and smoke alarms was available. The fire extinguishers maintenance certificate was dated 30th November 2023, and the smoke alarms were last serviced on the 29th November 2023. The fire assembly point was clearly identified and a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed.</p>
-------------------------	--

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>There was adequate insurance cover for a maximum of 96 pre-school children with an expiry date 27th March 2024.</p>
-------------------------	--

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 was met on inspection.

(a) The premises appeared to be in good condition throughout.

(b) The entrance doors leading into the service are kept locked at all times during the operational hours of the service. A code keypad was present on the main entrance door.

(c) Lighting

The premises was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating

The premises was heated by an oil heating system. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection.

Ventilation

Ventilation was predominantly provided by means of openable windows and mechanical vents in the sanitary accommodation. All rooms benefitted from openable windows.

(d) Up to date documented cleaning schedules are on display in the service.

(e) There are an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins provided. Two nappy changing stations are available which is sufficient to meet the needs of children in nappies in the service at this time. Liquid soap and paper hand towel is available for the pre-school children's and staff members' use.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider ensures that adequate clear floor space is available in the service to accommodate the additional 44 children being proposed.

(2) Clear floor space available is 50.1 square meters is available in Caterpillar room 2.
Clear floor space available is 46.2 square meters is available in the Non ECCE room.