

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



Tusla I.D: TU2021CC007

Name of Service: Carraig Liath Early Learning Centre

Address of Service: Community Building
Carraig Liath
Midleton
Co Cork
P25R968

Email Address: lisa.orourke@respond.ie

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Ms. Lisa O'Rourke

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

Proposed service type: FDC
Proposed Number of Children: 34
Registered service: Full Day Care Service for 34 children

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

Inspection Undertaken by: M O Reilly
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate
Early Years' Service
Administration Building
St Mary's Health Campus
Gurrabraher
Co. Cork

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



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

Registration Status:	Full Day Care Service for 34 children
Date of Registration:	14 th December 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).

Description of Service	Carraig Liath Early Learning Centre proposes to operate a full day care service catering for children aged from one to six years and for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service also proposes to have provision for school going children. The registered provider is the named person on behalf of the community organisation Respond who are responsible for operating the early years' service. The proposed opening times that the service will be carried out are from 8am to 6pm each day Monday to Thursday and 8am to 5pm on a Friday.
Premises	Carraig Liath Early Learning Centre poses to operate from a detached two storey building belonging to the association Respond. The facility is located in a residential urban estate in the outskirts of Midleton town. The ground floor premise has been purposely refurbished to accommodate an early years' service. The administration office, staff canteen and adult toilet are on the first floor. There are three residential apartments on the first floor but are completely separate to the early years' service. The residents have a separate entrance door and stairs to their accommodation and have access to a community garden to the rear side of the early years' service. The early years' service consists of the following: an entrance hall, two spacious playrooms. One playroom called the wobbler /toddler room, and the second playroom is called the preschool room. There is a separate sleep room located beside the wobbler/toddler room. There were adequate children's nappy changing and toilet facilities, a kitchen and utility room, a storeroom for storing new and replacement equipment and materials and a separate storage area for cleaning equipment. It is proposed that the children in the wobbler /toddler room will have access to a designated secure outdoor play area to the rear side of the facility. It is proposed that the children in the preschool room will have access to a designated outdoor play area to the front of the facility. There was a set down and parking area for staff to park their cars beside the facility
Staffing	It is proposed on the initial opening of the early years' service there will be two to four staff employed to work directly with the children. The registered provider will not be service based. The proposed person in charge and the adults that propose to work directly with the children at the service will have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.
Methodology	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.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

	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.
Acknowledgement	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge and the regional manager from Respond who were present at time 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 service has appointed a person in charge and are currently actively recruiting for a deputy and for staff to work directly with the children.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The fit for purpose inspection was carried out in the absence of children. It is proposed that initially when the service opens there will be two to four staff employed who will work directly with the children in the service.

(8)

(b) Not applicable as this is not a proposed child-minder service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a proposed single-hand operated 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—*
 - (a) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, or*
 - (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 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 pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.*
- (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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) The playrooms are spacious, bright and well equipped. There are low shelves provided in both playrooms that are accessible to the children. The shelves are stocked with a large selection of activities, equipment and play materials all functioning and maintained in good condition.

Each of the two playrooms have their own designated outdoor play areas located beside both playrooms.

(b) There was a separate sleep room beside the wobbler/toddler room. There was suitable sleep equipment for children under 2 years. There were 3 standard cots each with a safety mattress. There was suitable sleep equipment for children over 2 years who required a sleep while attending the service. There were five stacking beds with accompanying bed linen There was a designated rest area provided in both playrooms consisting of soft seating and floor mats.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

	<p>(2)(a) + (3)(a) There are two outdoor play areas provided beside the premise. Each of the two playrooms have their own separate designated outdoor play area an located beside both playrooms. The outdoor play areas have a combination of cement paths and mainly a grass surface enclosed with block walls, steel fences and gates that will be secured when the children are playing outdoors.</p> <p>(2)(b) + (3)(b) Not applicable as the children have access to an outdoor play area located beside the facility.</p> <p>(4) +(5) Not applicable as the children have access to on site outdoor play areas.</p>
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Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services

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:	<p>The requirement has been met. It is proposed that the parents will provide all the food and drink requirements for the children attending Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) while attending the sessional service. It is proposed that parents will have the choice of providing all the food and drink for the children while attending part or full day care service or an outside registered catering company will be appointed to provide all hot meals for the service. There are microwaves provided in the service to heat the hot meals provided for the children. The person in charge advised there will be potable drinking water available to the children. A fridge is provided in both classrooms to store perishable foods provided by parents for the mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack.</p>
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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 requirements have been met.

- The doors immediately inside the main entrance door and the entrance doors into the two playrooms have a keyless secure entrance lock system (fob key) to reduce the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premise or the leaving of an unsupervised child. All internal doors including the entry door to kitchen have a key stored at adult height beside the door when not in use.
- All toys and play equipment in the proposed playrooms are safe and in good condition.
- There was thermostatically controlled warm water, antibacterial liquid soap dispensers, disposable paper hand towel available at the wash hand basins for hygienic hand washing and hygienic hand drying in the adult and children’s toilet facilities.
- There were a number of openable windows in both playrooms, and they all have restrictive opening devices.
- Cleaning equipment and materials are stored in areas that are inaccessible to children.
- The first aid box was stored at adult height in both playrooms
- The exit doors were unobstructed.
- Safe storage is provided for the children’s belongings which includes their coats stored on walls hooks located in each playroom.
- A system was in place for staff to confirm to the person in charge that they were well and did not have any COVID-19 related sicknesses at the start of each shift.
- Staff will be advised in relation to the requirement to self-isolate where appropriate.
- The service was aware of what to do if a child or adult becomes symptomatic while in the service and moving the child or adult to the isolation area whilst maintaining social distancing of 2 meters.
- An isolation area was identified in the service.
- A supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was available and used when required by staff in the service which included hand sanitizers, disposable single-use plastic aprons, non-powdered, non-permeable gloves, and face masks.
- A written cleaning record was available where high contact areas were regularly cleaned throughout the day. The service will be cleaned thoroughly at the end of each session each day.
- All toys/materials/equipment available to the children will be cleaned after use each day.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

- Each child will have a spare set of clothes on site in case the clothes they were wearing became contaminated.
- Playrooms and communal areas were adequately ventilated by natural and mechanical forms of ventilation.
- Personal waste including used tissues and all cleaning waste will be appropriately disposed of in foot operated pedal bins in each room of the service. A supply of liquid soap, paper towels and bins for disposal of paper towels were available throughout the service.
- There was evidence that the service had implemented measures to maintain physical distancing and to avoid congregation.
- Visitors or external persons will be restricted in the service or can call when children and staff have left the service.
- Attendance records will be kept for all children and adults to the service so that if required contact tracing could easily be carried out.

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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:

- The requirement has been met.
- (1)
The person in charge has an up to date first aid training certificate and will be at all times, immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2)
(a) The first aid boxes were stored on a shelf at adult height in each playroom.
(b) The first aid box was adequately stocked and readily accessible by staff.

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:

- The requirement has been met.
- (1)
(a) The requirement is met in relation to the provision of a form for recording monthly fire drills.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

(b) A record of the number and type of firefighting equipment and wired smoke alarm system were available on file. It was recorded that fire equipment was last serviced on the 9th March 2021. It was recorded that the smoke alarm system was tested and serviced on the 30th November 2021.

(4) The service has a designated assembly point in the event of a fire. A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed on the premise.

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.
A record of insurance cover for 56 children was available on file and the insurance cover expires on the 28th February 2022

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 has been met.

(a) The provider proposes to operate a full day care service in a facility that has been adapted to provide an early years' service. No mould or cracks are visible.

(b) The entrance door to the preschool is adequately secured to prevent access by an unauthorised adult.

(c) There are a number of openable windows in each of the proposed playrooms and the children's and adult sanitary facilities, kitchen and administration office. There is an oil based heating system in place and the surface temperature of the radiators are thermostatically controlled to a maximum of 50° Celsius. The playroom air temperature and toilet area air temperatures were recorded at between 18 and 19°C during the inspection.

(d) Cleaning schedules templates were available and all the play materials were clean and in good condition.

(e) There are designated toilets and wash hand basins provided for each of the proposed playrooms that will be in operation. There was a total of four children's toilets, two toilets with accompanying wash hand basins located beside each of the playrooms. There is a nappy station with two nappy changing mats in the children's toilet area beside the wobbler room. There is a designated toilet and wash hand basin available for use by the adults. The premise is serviced by a public sewage system and the water source is from a public supply.

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)
The Wobbler/Toddler Room measured 59 square meters.
 The playroom has sufficient floor space for the proposed 10/11 early years’ children aged between 1 and 2 years and between 2 and 3 years attending the service at any one time with 2 adults directly involved in the care of the children.
The Preschool Room measured 92 square meters.
 The playroom has adequate floor space for the proposed maximum Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) children to attend the service each morning and the room can accommodate the proposed 16 children attending part time and full day care children aged between 2 years 8 months and 6 years at any one time with 2 adults directly involved in the care of the children.
 A school aged care service is proposed to operate from the preschool room if the service provider finds there is no demand for an early years service in the afternoon session.

(2)

(3) There was adequate space provided in the preschool room for the proposed maximum number of 22 Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) children that will attend each morning.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) Not applicable.