

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2021CE002

Name of Service Croí na nÓg Preschool

Address of Service: Creegh South, Cree, County Clare

Email Address: croinanogpreschool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Natasha Murray

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

Proposed change:	Proposed change of children to attending preschool room one to be changed from twenty to twenty-two children. Proposed new additional room to be called preschool room two, with ten preschool children proposed to attend on a sessional basis from 09:30 to 12:30.
Proposed Number of Children:	32 children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Preschool room one: twenty-two children Preschool room two: ten children Total: thirty-two children
Registered change:	Change in Number of Children from 20 to 32 children

Date of Inspection:	2	4	0	6	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: A. McCarthy
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Quality and Regulation Directorate
	Tusla Child and Family Agency
	Ennis Primary Care Centre
	Station Road
	Ennis
	County Clare

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Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 32 children
Date of Registration	4 th October 2024

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	Croí na nÓg Preschool is a privately owned service located in the rural village of Creagh, in County Clare. The service proposes to operate Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 12:30 with twenty-two preschool children in preschool room one and ten preschool children in preschool room two. The registered provider proposes to add an additional room to the service alongside the existing preschool room one to accommodate this change.
Premises	The proposed additional sessional service is located within Creagh national school. An existing preschool room is currently in operation and located at the entrance to the service. The new additional room is located at the end of the entrance corridor and rear of the building. An enclosed outdoor play area is located to the side and rear of the premises. The perimeter is safely secured with walls, fencing and gates.
Staffing	The registered provider confirmed the following: Two adults will be working in preschool room one and one adult will work directly with the children in preschool room two. The adults that will be working in the proposed preschool rooms have appropriate qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education. The registered provider works directly with the children and an administrative role.
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 the

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	<p>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>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present in preschool room one on the day of the inspection.</p>

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 proposed service has a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise when required. Both these adults were available during the inspection.

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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.

Requirement met:

The registered provider confirmed the following:

Two adults will work directly with the proposed twenty-two children attending on a sessional basis in the existing preschool room one. During the inspection two adults worked directly with twenty children in attendance.

One adult will work directly with the proposed ten children that will be in attendance from September 2024 in preschool room two.

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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)(a)

Both the indoor and outdoor environment was adequately resourced for the proposed number of children and provided a space where children could freely move and play.

Indoor environment:

Both care rooms were appropriately laid out and resourced for the proposed number of children.

Preschool room One:

The large room was spacious, bright and laid out with low level accessible shelving, tables and chairs. The defined areas of interest included: area section, with an easel and painting materials, learning aids and jigsaws on low level units. A dress up area, a large and small dolls house, containers with manipulative play toys and a construction area were available.

Preschool room Two:

The room was laid out with two low level tables and chairs that were accessible for children. Designated areas of interest included: an area with a tippee, soft furnishings and seating, an adjacent shelving area with a variety of reading materials, a home corner, a wooden house with furnishings, a puppet theatre, two large shelving units that accommodated jigsaws, shape sorters pegboards, dress up costumes, art materials, modelling clay, farm set and musical instruments.

Outdoor area:

The outdoor area included a grass surface and a large basketball court and was secured by fencing and gated access. Areas of interest included: a mud kitchen, a sand area, a sea saw, two slides, ride on toys. The registered provider confirmed that the outdoor area is under development and would be finalised during the summer holidays.

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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 is met.

The registered provider confirmed that parents provide the children’s lunches and beverages. A healthy eating policy was available to inform staff and parents of the service’s procedure.

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 is met.

- The entrance to the service was secured to prevent unauthorised persons entering and unsupervised children exiting the service.
- Running hot water at the wash hand basins, liquid soap, paper hand towels and lidded, lined pedal operated bins are available in the sanitary facilities and care rooms in the service.
- Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the children proposed to attend the service.
- Trailing flexes, cables or electric items were inaccessible to the children.
- Blind cords were secured to prevent the risk of strangulation to children on the premises.
- Fire exit routes and the passageways were clear of all obstructions in the event of an emergency.
- A risk assessment was available detailing the measures taken to reduce risk within the service.

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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:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(2)(a)</p> <p>A suitably equipped first aid box was available and stored in a central position in the service, for use in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>A first aid box was available for use by the adults to attend to the children in the event if an emergency.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(1)</p> <p>A certificate of First Aid Responder (FAR) training was not available in respect of the adults working in the service.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>16/09/2024</p> <p>The registered provider responded that a staff member had completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training on the 14/09/2024.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirements are met.</p>

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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.

Requirement met:	<p>(1)(a)</p> <p>A record was available in the service which demonstrated that monthly fire drills were completed, and a template was available for the proposed additional room.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>The firefighting equipment was last serviced on the 19 February 2024.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>Fire action notices demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(1)(b)</p> <p>A record for the smoke alarm system maintenance service was not available.</p>
Response from Provider:	<p>A record for the smoke alarm system is now available. The maintenance service took place on the 27th of June 2024. A copy of the certificate was submitted.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>Based on the actions taken by the registered provider the requirements of Regulation 26 are met.</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:

The requirement is met.

Evidence of an insurance cover was available for the proposed type of service provision and for thirty-two children attending the service and the expiry date noted was 26 August 2024. An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration office 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:

The requirement is met.

(a)

Structure:

The existing and the proposed new room located within the school premises visually appeared to be in good condition.

(b) **Safe and Secure:**

The internal and external entrances were secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.

(c)

Lighting:

The preschool rooms were adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Ventilation:

Windows in the two care rooms and the sanitary facilities could be opened to allow fresh air to circulate.

Heating:

The service is heated by an oil-fired central heating system. A certificate was available recording the last boiler service.

(d)

Cleaning:

The service was maintained in a clean condition and cleaning schedules were available detailing the areas and frequency of cleaning of the service.

(e)

Sanitary Facilities:

The sanitary facilities adjacent to preschool one accommodated two toilets and two wash hand basins for use by the children and a sanitary facility was available next to preschool room one with a toilet and a hand wash basin. Two adult sanitary facilities were available in the school.

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.

(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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)

The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space was available in both preschool rooms one and two to support the children’s play and movement. There is adequate clear floor space available for the proposed increase to 22 children in preschool one on a sessional basis and 10 children on a sessional basis in preschool two.

The findings are detailed in the table below:

Room Names:	Proposed Sessional Changes:	Regulatory Space Requirement:	Total Space available:	Total number of PSC:	Requirement Met:
Preschool Room One	20 to 22 PSC	1.818 square metres	71 square metres	22 PSC	Yes
Preschool Room Two	10 PSC	1.818 square metres	20.44 square metres	10 PSC	Yes

*PSC: Preschool children.

(3)

The registered provider ensured that the minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space was available for each of the proposed number of children that will be attending the service.