

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2021RN002
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<b>Name of Service</b>	Tír na nÓg Aughrim-Kilmore Community Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Dangan Community Centre, Kilmore, Co Roscommon N41T6K1.
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<b>Email Address:</b>	tirnanog21preschool@gmail.com
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Gerard Tiernan
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<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>		<b>Part-Time</b>	✓	<b>Sessional</b>	
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

<b>Proposed change:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change in number of children to be catered for from 19 children to 41 children.</li> <li>Change of number of staff employed from 2 staff to 5 staff.</li> </ul>
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<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	41
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<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	41 sessional and parttime
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<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in number of children to be accommodated from 19 to 41. Change in number of staff from 2 to 5
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	1	0	7	2	0	2	3
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	A. Kennedy
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.
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<b>Rationale for Inspection:</b>
<b>Proposed Change of Circumstance</b>

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Part Time Service for 41 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2023

 An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	Child and Family Agency Act 2013 Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016	Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)	<b>1 of 9</b>
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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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Tír na nÓg Aughrim-Kilmore Community Preschool is based in a community centre in a rural setting and adjacent to the primary school and church grounds. The service is situated on the outskirts of the village and between the towns of Carrick on Shannon and Elphin. The service proposes to extend the number of children to be catered for from 19 children to 41 children with the provision of an additional blended indoor/outdoor service from a large room in the community centre. The service proposes to provide childcare between the hours of 9.30 am and 1.45 pm for children in the age range 2 years 8 months to 5 years and to offer the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) between the hours of 9.30 am and 12.30 pm.
<b>Premises</b>	The service is located in a standalone single storey building. Rooms proposed for use in the preschool service include the entrance hallway, an additional playroom, a kitchenette, a toy storeroom, cleaning store area and sanitary accommodation for the children off the hallway and the sanitary accommodation for staff off an adjoining hallway. A large outdoor play area is located at the gable end of the building for use by the preschool service and school age service and parking is provided off the road and at the front of the building.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service is proposing to employ an additional 3 staff. Presently there are 2 staff employed who have certification in childcare to confirm Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) level 8 and level 5 and 1 staff member has completed Access and Inclusion Model (Link) training.
<b>Methodology</b>	<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>
<b>Additional information</b>	On the 11 <sup>th</sup> of July 2023, the Early Years Inspector sent a referral to the fire officer regarding the location of the fire assembly points. Concern was expressed on the safety and supervision of children accessing the assembly points, which is located in the car park at the front of the building.

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	<p>On the 12th of July 2023, the fire officer advised photographs were received from the manager outlining the location of the existing fire assembly points and was satisfied on the location and suitability of these.</p> <p>The manager advised that there would be five adults from the service, two administrators and a CE supervisor also on the premises during the hours of operation and agreed guidance regarding the fire assembly points.</p>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the manager, 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.*

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service had both a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required and both were proposed to work directly with the preschool 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.*

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1) A total of 5 staff are proposed to work in the service to ensure that an adequate number of adults are available to care for up to 41 children seeking sessional care and parttime care in the service.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.
- (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

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The play-based service is seeking to use an additional room in the community centre with a substantial amount of time also to be spent in the outdoor area. The play based service was equipped with play and work equipment which included shopping trollies, food items, a kitchen with kitchen equipment and utensils, tea sets and dolls, buggies and a highchair in a home area, a construction area, equipped with a basket of tools, hard hats and high visibility jackets, a paint and art easel, threading, beading toys, jigsaws, puzzles, building bricks and blocks of different sizes and dimensions, small animals and miniature wheel along toys for table top activities, colours, glue, stencils, paint and paper in an art area, a water tray and a garage placed on a floor mat with a selection of small world cars and trucks. Toys and play equipment were stored on open low-level shelving on casters for movement to different areas of the playroom. Low level seating and tables were provided for children to sit and engage in activities.

(b) A quiet area was provided with vinyl floor mats and cushions should a child wish to relax/opt out of activities.

(3)(a) An outdoor play area is located to the side of the premises and this is securely fenced in by high level timber fencing on all site boundaries with direct access from the front access door to the community centre and the playrooms. It was advised that the service had sole use of the outdoor play area during operational hours. A cast iron gate latched from the outside led to the entrance to the outdoor play area to guard against unsupervised exit when children availed of daily outdoor play. The play area was provided with a bark mulch finish and play equipment available included four playhouses with swings and slides attached, a sand box in a shelter under a slide, work benches, push along and pull along toys on wheels and picnic tables and seating. A newly erected poly tunnel and playhouse was also provided. There were also a selection of tyres provided in the outdoor play area for digging and planting opportunities.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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.  
Parents and guardians will provide snacks for children cared for in the service on a sessional basis and snacks and a lunch for children remaining in the service for part time care. A refrigerator is available in the kitchenette for the refrigerated storage for individually packed lunches. The manager advised that parents and guardians also supplied children's drinks and drinking water was available 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:

#### GENERAL SAFETY:

- Waste disposal facilities were inaccessible to the preschool children.
- The entrance gate of the pre-school service was secured on arrival to the service and remained secured throughout the inspection thus preventing children from exiting and unauthorised persons from entering the premises.
- A lock was provided on the gates in the outdoor area to prevent a child from exiting and unauthorised persons from entering the area.
- A timber fence was provided on the open gable end of the community centre to prevent children accessing the back of the building.
- Cleaning products were stored in a locked press in the kitchenette area which was inaccessible to the preschool children.
- There were no trailing flexes in the service.
- A gate was provided from the junior preschool room to the kitchenette to deny children access to this area.
- A separate entrance was provided to the offices in the building from outside which was independent of the entrance to the service.

#### INFECTION CONTROL:

- A sluice area is provided for the storage of mops, buckets, brushes and cleaning equipment in area children were denied access too.
- Foot pedal operated lidded bins were provided in the service for the disposal of waste.
- The openable windows in the playrooms ensured a good flow of fresh air directly from outside into the rooms when children played indoors.
- The service had enhanced their cleaning schedules and records of all cleaning and disinfecting undertaken in the service were maintained and available for inspection.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A refrigerator is available for the storage of the children’s perishable foods.</li> <li>• The water in the sanitary areas was thermostatically controlled to ensure effective hand washing. The temperature taken on the day was 39.8°C which is within the recommended range of maximum 43°C for effective handwashing.</li> </ul> <p><b>ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The adult present demonstrated clear knowledge of safe practices regarding the administration of medication.</li> </ul> <p><b>FIRE SAFETY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All exit routes from the service were free from obstruction during the inspection.</li> </ul>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p><b>General safety</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There were two fluorescent light fittings in the hallway and one light fitting in each of the sanitary accommodations with the bulbs exposed which could pose a potential safety concern.</li> <li>2. There was flaking paint and a rough surface on the wooden posts on one of the climbing frames in the outdoor play area which could pose risk of splintering.</li> <li>3. In the designated quiet area in the proposed new preschool room and the newly erected wooden playhouse in the outdoor area the floor mats had evidence of being frayed and torn, thereby preventing effective cleaning.</li> </ol> <p><b>Infection control</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The door into the sanitary accommodation to be used by the preschool children was removed which could pose a risk of cross contamination.</li> </ol>
<b>Response from registered provider</b>	<p>The registered provider advised on 03<sup>rd</sup> of August</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Four new fluorescent lights have been fitted.</li> <li>2. The flaking paint on the climbing frame and hut has been washed, sanded and repainted.</li> <li>3. The frayed &amp; torn mats and the sofa have been repaired.</li> <li>4. The door into the sanitary accommodation has been replaced.</li> </ol>
<b>Summary comment</b>	<p>The inspector has reviewed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed.</p>

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) Two staff members working in the service had up to date first aid for children training with an expiry date of 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 and 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2024.

(2)(a) A first aid box was stored in the kitchenette and the manager advised that they are also purchasing an additional first aid box for use in the outdoor play area.

### 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 firefighting 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A record of fire drills was maintained on the premises and it was noted that the last monthly fire drill was recorded as conducted on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2023.

(b) A record of maintenance of firefighting equipment confirmed that an annual service was conducted on 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 and the fire alarm was serviced on 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display on the notice board in the lobby/hallway area. Two fire assembly points for the service was positioned in the carpark at the front of the premises.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

**An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team 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:

This requirement has been partially met.

(a) The room proposed for use in the service was brightly painted and in a good state of repair and maintenance on the day of inspection. Windows and doors appeared to be both watertight and weather tight when closed with no evidence of dampness or mould growth.

(b) A smooth concrete path led to the entrance gate to the service. The entrance door to the community centre was provided with a high-level chain from inside to prevent unauthorised access when children were indoors in the service. The service was connected to the public water supply for drinking water purposes. The septic tank drainage system for the building was located at the back of the premises and a high-level timber fence prevented child access to the drainage system when in the outdoor play area.

(c) The windows in the playrooms and fluorescent ceiling mounted light fittings which were covered with shatter proof diffusers in the playrooms ensured that the playroom had a good mix of natural and artificial lighting and ventilation. A new air conditioning system was recently fitted in the service.

(d) The laminated floor in the playroom, tiled floors in the sanitary accommodation and carpet floor cover in the toys storeroom were clean and well maintained on the day of inspection. Foot pedal operated bins were provided in the playroom and bins for the temporary storage of refuse were located at the back on the building and in an area, children were denied access to by a high-level timber fence. Cleaning agents and materials were stored on a high-level shelf in the cleaning store area and the kitchenette area. Cleaning schedules were available for the rooms, furniture and play and work equipment both indoors and outdoors.

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	<p>It was indicated that the management committee for community centre had responsibility for vermin and pest control with the last service report conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2023.</p> <p>(e) Five toilet cubicles and five wash handbasins which had a thermostatically controlled hot water supply were provided off the playrooms for a maximum of forty-one children in daily attendance. One staff toilet and wash hand basin was provided for staff working in the service. Liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bins were provided in all toilet areas. Openable windows ensured ventilation in both the children’s and adult sanitary accommodations.</p>
<b>Requirement not met</b>	(a) A section of the ceiling in the proposed new senior preschool room had evidence of dampness and mould which requires further investigation.
<b>Response from registered provider</b>	<p>The registered provider advised on 3<sup>rd</sup> of August</p> <p>(a) The section of the ceiling with evidence of damp and mould was investigated and repaired.</p>
<b>Summary comment</b>	The inspector has reviewed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 29 has been adequately addressed.

### 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).

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) In the junior preschool room an area of 33.44m<sup>2</sup> and in the proposed senior preschool room an area of 82m<sup>2</sup> ensured adequate floor space was provided for a maximum of 41 children in attendance at any one time for on a part-time basis.</p> <p>(2) The service had adequate floor space for a maximum of 41 preschool children to attend on a part-time basis.</p>
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