

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2021RN002

Name of Service Tir na Nog Aughrim Kilmore Community Childcare

Address of Service: Dangan Community Centre, Kilmore, Carrick on Shannon
Co Roscommon, N41 T6K1

Email Address: tirnanog21preschool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Gerry Tiernan

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: Change from part time to full day care in the room referred to as Seomra beag.
Change in hours of operation from 9:20-13:50hrs to 9:20 – 17:30hrs.

Proposed Number of Children: 41 children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change from part time to full day care in the room referred to as Seomra beag, accommodating 14 children

Registered change: Change from part time to full day care in the room referred to as Seomra beag, , accommodating 14 children
Change in hours of operation from 9:20-13:50hrs to 9:20 – 17:30hrs.

Date of Inspection:	3	0	0	9	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: A. Kennedy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Year’s Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Co. Roscommon.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 41 Children
Date of Registration	28th October 2025

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>Tír na nÓg Aughrim-Kilmore Community childcare is based in a community centre in a rural setting and adjacent to a 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.</p> <p>The service proposes to provide childcare between the hours of 9.20 am and 17.30 pm to 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 9.20 am and 12.20 pm.</p>
Premises	<p>The proposed service is located in a standalone single storey building. The room proposed is presently used to cater for children on a parttime basis.</p> <p>There is an entrance hallway, kitchenette, toy storeroom, a cleaning store area and sanitary accommodation for both children off the playroom and staff in the adjoining hallway. An outdoor play area is located at the gable end of the building for use by the school age and the preschool service and parking is provided off the road and at the front of the building.</p> <p>The additional rooms in the premises include a community hall, two offices, separate storeroom and sanitary accommodation off the hallway and community hall.</p>
Staffing	<p>It is proposed that five adults would be employed in the morning, and two adults would be employed in the full day care service. The adults have certification in childcare at Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) level 5 and level 9.</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, and deputy person in charge who were present 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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise as required.</p>
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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:	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>(1) It is proposed that there will be five adults would be employed in the morning, and two adults would be working directly with the pre-school children in the afternoon. The registered provider will ensure that the adult:child ratio is adhered to. There will be one adult to 6 children aged 2-3 years and one adult to 8 children aged 3-6 years proposing to attend the full day care service.</p>
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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,

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The play based service was equipped with play and work equipment which included food trollies, food and a shop in a role play area, a kitchen with kitchen equipment and utensils, tea sets and dolls in a home corner, a work bench equipped with tools , hard hats and high visibility jackets, table top activities to include threading , beading , jigsaws , puzzles, building bricks and blocks of different sizes and dimensions, small animals and miniature wheel along toys art and craft materials to include colours, glue , stencils, paint and paper, a train track and train station for floor activities. Toys and play equipment were stored on open low-level shelving on casters for both movement to different areas of the playroom and easy access by the children. Low level seating and tables were provided for children to sit and engage in activities. An outdoor play area safely and securely fenced in by high level timber fencing on all site boundaries was provided at the gable end of the building with direct access from the front access door to the community centre and the playroom. The service had sole use of the outdoor play area during operation 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.

(b) Soft floor mats were in storage for children remaining in the service for full day care and requiring rest.

Books on an open low-level shelf were provided in the rest and quiet area of the playroom.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 service had a healthy eating policy.

It is proposed that a catering company will provide the hot meal daily and the parents/guardians will provide food for their child's snack times.

Confirmation that the caterer is registered with the Environmental health department.

A three-week menu plan was provided.

The staff would ensure that each snack will have two food groups.

The person in charge advised that the children would have two snacks and would have a selection of fresh fruits available throughout the day.

There will be a supply/alternative food for any child requiring additional food.

A drinks table is available in the playroom and in the outdoor area during play to allow the children the opportunity to 'self-serve' their drinks.

Perishables items from children's snack boxes will be stored in designated fridge in the playroom.

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

- The designated entrance is secure to prevent unauthorised entry and prevent unsupervised children leaving the pre-school.
- The storage areas adjacent to the playroom, are secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- The external play areas are secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- The fire doors are unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents are stored inaccessible to the children.

- Leads, cables, and flexes are secured to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- The playroom temperatures are maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings are anchored appropriately.
- The four openable windows are high and thereby inaccessible to a child.
- Each of the blind cords are secured by a fastener safety system.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There are no pits or ponds in the designated outdoor area to cause any risk of danger to the proposed pre-school children.
- The service has a risk assessment system for checking that toys and equipment are not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.
- The person in charge clearly identified to the early year's inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.

Infection Control

- Hand washing facilities are provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and a roll towel dispenser.
- The toys and play equipment are maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The person in charge advised that the outdoor play equipment would be cleaned prior to/ after a child's use, with documented records maintained.
- A refrigerator is provided in the kitchenette for the storage of perishable foods.
- The playroom was observed to be kept adequately ventilated whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- There is a cleaning schedule and cleaning records for the materials, equipment, and furnishings.
- Waste is disposed of in the sanitary areas and the playroom in foot pedalled lidded bins and thereby inaccessible to the pre-school children.

Administration of Medication

- The adults present demonstrated clear knowledge of safe practices regarding the administration of medication.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	Fire Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All exit routes from the service were free from obstruction during the inspection.
Requirement not met:	Infection control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pressure of water from the hot water taps in the children’s sanitary area was very weak with a temperature reading of 11°C which could prove difficult to enable effective handwashing.
Response from registered provider	On the 21 st of October the manager of the service advised the water pressure has been enhanced with the temperature increased to 35.7°C
Summary comment	The early years inspector has assessed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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 has been met.</p> <p>(1) Two staff who will be working in the pre-school service have a current first aid responder qualification.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and in an easily accessible conspicuous position, with content items within date.</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 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.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills.</p> <p>(b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file. Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated 27th of November 2024. Records indicated that the last annual maintenance certificate for the smoke and fire detection system was dated 7th of May 2025</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the playroom and on the notice board in the entrance hallway.</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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>An insurance certificate was displayed on the notice board in the entrance hall</p> <p>The service had an insurance certificate with a commencement date of 28th of March 2025 and an expiry date of 27th of March 2026 for a full day care service and included the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public liability insurance, • insurance against fire and theft, • buildings insurance, • insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.
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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.*

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<p>Requirement met:</p>	<p>The requirements have been met under subsections(a)(b)(c)</p> <p>(a) From a visual inspection the indoor playroom is of sound and stable structure and there were no observable indications of defects.</p> <p>(b) The playroom and the outdoor play areas were safe and secure. The main entrance door to the premises has a securing mechanism in place.</p> <p>(c) There was natural lighting in the playroom from five high openable windows on the outer wall. There was a window in the sanitary area.</p> <p>The playroom was well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors. The pre-school service was adequately lit with natural light provided from five windows in addition to three artificial lights on the playroom ceiling. The light fittings in the playroom and in the sanitary area had protective covers in place. Air conditioning units are in place with temperature controls to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C.</p> <p>On the day of inspection, the room temperature was maintained at 18.6°C.</p> <p>(d) In the proposed playroom the play and work equipment were clean and good repair.</p> <p>Cleaning equipment was safely stored away from / inaccessible to the pre-school children.</p> <p>From observation, the furnished playroom was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.</p> <p>There was evidence that there was a professional rodent proofing service with the last inspection carried out on 30/07/2025.</p> <p>(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.</p> <p>There were three designated children's toilets with two designated children's wash hand basins.</p> <p>There was a designated adult only toilet with a wash hand basin.</p> <p>Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in designated dispensers were within easy access to a pre-school child.</p> <p>Foot pedal lidded bins were provided in the sanitary areas.</p> <p>The service uses a public water supply and sewage system.</p>
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Requirement not met:	<p>(d) A section of the skirting board was missing in the entrance hallway. A section of the flooring at the entrance door to the preschool room was absent which could prove difficult to effectively clean.</p> <p>(e) The newly erected nappy changing mat and unit off the staff sanitary area required repositioning to enable a child to be comfortably changed.</p>
Response from registered provider	<p>On 21st of October the manager advised that</p> <p>(d) The skirting board has been replaced, and the section of flooring has been repaired.</p> <p>(e) The nappy changing unit has been repositioned to enable a child to be changed comfortably.</p>
Summary comment	<p>The early years inspector has assessed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The regulatory requirement has been met.</p>

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:	<p>(1) Adequate floor space was provided for the free movement of children to work and play.</p> <p>(2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children.</p> <p>The measurement of the proposed playroom floor space was 33.44 square meters, thus, ensuring a minimum of 2.35 square metres of clear floor space will be available for the 2–3-year-olds and 2.3 square metres of clear floor space will be available for the 3–6-year-olds.</p>
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