

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2022CC003

Name of Service Gra Childcare

Address of Service: Roseview, Main Street, Carrignavar, Cork, T34 RK79

Email Address: grachildcare@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Colm O' Reilly

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

Proposed change: Change in the number of children from 33 to 51 children
Change in the number of staff from 5 to 8 staff
Opening of an additional care room

Proposed Number of Children: 51

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change the number of children to 51
Change the number of staff to 8

Registered change: Change in number of children from 33 to 51 children
Change in number of staff from 5 to 8 staff

Date of Inspection: 1 5 0 8 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: B Fraher and D Prendergast

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla
13 Market Square,
Mallow, Co Cork

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

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| Registration Status: | Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 51 Children |
| Date of Registration | 21 st August 2025 |

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).

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| Description of Service | Gra Childcare is a private full day care service. It operated Monday to Friday 8:30 to 17:30, 50 weeks of the year. The service accommodates children between 1 to 6 years. The sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme is offered over a 38-week period from 9:00 to 12:00. The service offers a school age service also. |
| Premises | The service is located in a purpose built two storey facility located in the village of Carrignavar Cork. The ground floor consists of a reception area, cleaning room, children's sanitary facilities, a sleep room, two care rooms and the proposed third care room. The upstairs consists of the kitchen, staff toilet and a laundry room. The outside area is enclosed at the back of the building and is directly accessible from two care rooms, one being the proposed new care room. |
| Staffing | Five staff are currently employed in the service, and it is proposed to increase the staff number to eight. The register provider is not service based. |
| 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 | The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service has a centre manager as the designated person in charge each day

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

and there is a named person present who is able to deputise if required.

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 requirement has been met.

(1) The centre manager will ensure that there will be, at all times, an adequate number of adults on the premises who will be working directly with the children. It is proposed that three additional staff will care for the additional 20 children aged between 2 years and 8 months and 6 years. One of these staff will be employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM).

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) (a) The proposed new care room has an adequate amount of well-maintained equipment such as low level tables and chairs and play material for both indoor and outdoor use. The proposed care room contains a number of designated interest areas containing toys that are visible and accessible such as construction toys, kitchen toys, role play costumes, plastic and timber bricks. The outdoor play area is equipped with a large range of play material such as a playhouse, sand tray, outdoor kitchen and balance beams.
- (1) (b) The care room has a designated rest area with cushions, benches and a floor

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

- mat. The service has 11 stackable beds available for children who may need to rest and sleep within the service.
- (2) (a) The proposed new care room has direct access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the building.

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 has been met.

- The healthy eating policy was reviewed and was found to contain all the core requirements.
- Parents and guardians provide hot meals, and the service provides snacks and breakfast.
- The two-week menu displayed includes nutritious and varied food for breakfast and snacks.
- Additional food was available to be provided by the service if required.
- A refrigerator is available in the care room for the storage of perishable foods.
- Four microwaves are available in the service for heating food.
- Children will have access to drinking water throughout the day and will use their own water bottles which can be refilled in the service.
- Suitable cutlery and crockery are available for the children's use 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:

The requirement has been met.

General safety:

- The entrance door was secured preventing unauthorised access and preventing a child leaving the service unsupervised.
- The five window openings in the care room are out of reach of the children.
- All toys and equipment assessed appeared in good condition.
- Heavy storage units are anchored.
- Cleaning agents are not accessible to the children.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All waste is inaccessible both indoors and outdoors. • There is provision in the service for the storage of medication, and it will not be stored in the proposed care room. • The services kitchen is upstairs and is not accessible to the children. • The outdoor play area is secured with a concrete wall and gate. • The two fire doors exiting the proposed care room were unobstructed and fitted with alarms. • The blind cords in the care room are secured by tension devices. <p>Infection control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water temperatures recorded in the two proposed sanitary accommodations for use by the children for the proposed care room recorded temperatures of between 40.6°C to 30.2°C. • Wall mounted hooks were available for children’s coats and bags. |
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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:

- The requirement is met.
- (1) Four staff members have up to date training in First Aid Responder, and the certificates are valid until June 2027.
 - (2) (a) There is a suitably equipped wall mounted first aid box available on the premises and a first aid bag for outdoor use.
 - (b) The first aid boxes will be available to the children attending the service at all times.

Part VI – Safety

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 was met.

- (1) (a) A record in writing was kept of fire drills practiced monthly and documentation was available to demonstrate this. The last fire drill took place on 5 July 2025.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the premises was available, and equipment was last maintained on 3 July 2025. Smoke alarms were last serviced on 6 June 2025.
- (4) The notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, is displayed at both fire exit doors. The service has a signposted fire assembly point at the front of the building.

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.

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that cover for 55 children was in place.

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 requirements have been met.

- (a) The service is operating within a purpose-built building, and the proposed new care room appears to be of a sound and stable structure.
- (b) The entrance door to the service is secured by a keypad lock system outdoors and a press button exit indoors which is not accessible to the children. This reduces the risk of unauthorised access and a child leaving

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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| | <p>the service unsupervised. The designated outdoor play area is enclosed by a concrete wall and a gate.</p> <p>(c) Both natural and artificial light were available in the care room. The natural light was available from five windows located at the rear of the service and supplemented by nine covered ceiling lights in the proposed care room. Artificial lighting was also available in the children’s sanitary area.</p> <p>The proposed two sanitary areas for the children used mechanical ventilation. Oil heating was in use, and it was serviced on 10 May 2025. The temperature of the proposed new care room was 20.3°C.</p> <p>(d) The service appeared to be clean and well maintained, and in a good state of repair. A written cleaning schedule was available for the service.</p> <p>(e) The children in the proposed new care room will have access to two sanitary areas, one located near the reception area and one in an alternative care room. The adult sanitary facilities are located upstairs in the building and consisted of one toilet and one wash hand basin. Water is available from a public supply, and each toilet was supplied with a soap dispenser, paper towels and a foot operated pedal bin.</p> |
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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.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
- a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - 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).*

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| Requirement met: | <p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) There is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement of the children planning to attend the additional preschool room.</p> <p>(2) The proposed new care room was measured at 40.43 m².</p> <p>(4)(a)(b) The size of the room allows for each child to have a minimum of 1.818 m² of clear floor space available.</p> |
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT
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