

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2022LH001

Name of Service Tír na nÓg

Address of Service: 22 Feran Drive, Louth Village, A91 DT80

Email Address: louthvillagechildcare@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Danille McGinty

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

Proposed change: The registered provider proposes to:

- Change the service address – from 6 Churchill, Louth Village, Louth, A91 KD8F to 22 Feran Drive, Louth Village, A91 DT80
- Change the number of children that can be accommodated – from 5 to 44.
- Change the service type - from Childminder to full day care, part time and sessional care.
- Change the number of Staff – from 1 to 6 staff.

Proposed Number of Children: 44

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Recommended change following inspection:

- Change of address to 22 Feran Drive, Louth Village, A91 DT80
- Change the number of children that can be accommodated – from 5 to 44. (Based on the sanitary facilities available, a total of 33 toilet trained children and 11 children who require nappy changing facilities can be accommodated at any one time.
- Change the service type - from Childminder to full day care, part time and sessional care.
- Change the number of Staff – from 1 to 6 staff.
- Based on the current sleep facilities available the age profile of children attending to be changed from 0-6 years to 15months - 6 years.

Registered change: Change in service address to 22 Feran Drive, Louth Village, A91 DT80
Change in Number of Children from 5 to 44 children
Change in Service Type from Childminding to Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional

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Change in Age Profile from 0-6 years to 15 months – 6 years
Change in Staff from 1 to 6 staff

Date of Inspection:	0	3	0	9	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by:	M.Flood
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Child Wellbeing Centre, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
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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 full day care, part time and sessional service for 44 children.
Date of Registration	12 th September 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	<p>Tir na nÓg was established as a registered child-minder in August 2022. The service is currently registered to cater for a maximum of five pre-school children at any one time aged 0-6 years and operates from 07:00 - 18:00 daily.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes change the type of service offered to include sessional, part time and full day care services from 08:00 - 18.00, Monday – Friday. It is also proposed to change the age profile to cater for children aged 1-6 years and to increase the number of preschool children attending to 44.</p>
Premises	<p>Currently the service is conducted from the registered providers own home in a residential setting in Louth Village, Co. Louth.</p> <p>The registered provider proposes to move to a new premises on the grounds of St.Mochtas primary school in Louth Village. The new premises consists of a single storey modular building, with 2 specifically developed playrooms, namely Room 1 and Room 2. Ancillary</p>

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	accommodation consists of sanitary areas, storage, a kitchen area and office space. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the front of the premises.
Staffing	The registered provider and five staff will be available to work directly with the pre-school children.
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 Inspector would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection. No children were present during 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 requirement has been met. The service has a designated person in charge who is also the registered provider and a named deputy.
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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:

(1) The requirement has been met.

It is proposed that 6 staff members including the registered provider will be available to work directly with the pre-school children. The registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 and 2 of Schedule 6.

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—

- (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.*

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement has been partially met.

The preschool children have access to adequate and suitable facilities for play both indoors and outdoors on the premises. The 2 playrooms are laid out with an adequate number of tables and chairs, some specific areas of interest which are supported with toys and equipment. A variety of developmentally appropriate equipment and tabletop toys are also available.

(b) Two standard cots are available for children to access for sleep if required.

A number of day beds are available for the children over 2 years of age to access if required.

An additional soft /rest area is also located in Room 2 and consists of a soft mat and cushions.

(2) The pre-school children have access to a suitable and enclosed outdoor area on the premises. This area will be shared on a rotational basis with the children attending

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	<p>another early years' service on the school grounds. The area is gated and fenced and has a variety of surfaces including grass, safety matting and a stoney area. A variety of age-appropriate play equipment is available including, a mud kitchen, planted boxes, some ride on toys an age-appropriate slide and sand trays. Two storage sheds in the area also contain additional toys and equipment.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>The requirement has not been met:</p> <p>(1)(b) Sleep/ rest facilities are inadequate as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An internal room off Room 2 has been designated as a sleep room, however, this room is not approved as the floor plans have indicated that this room was designated as a kitchen and not a habitable sleep room. • The designated rest area in Room 1 was not considered adequate for the proposed 22 pre-school children who would be attending this room. The area observed was small and consisted of 3 small square cushions on the floor.
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>The proposed registered provider submitted the following response together with photographic evidence:</p> <p>(1)(b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children under the age of 2 can be offered opportunities for sleep on Cocoon beds in a quiet area in the classroom. This area is located in the construction area and is away from the main body of the room. Children who do not wish to rest can be offered quiet play in the classroom away from the sleep area. I will conduct individual sleep plans and risk assessment for each child under the age of 2 in collaboration with each child's parents/guardians. • Cot mattresses have been changed for cocoon beds that support rest on a floor setting. For children over 2 we have stackable beds that are raised off the floor.
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>Based on the information submitted adequate rest and sleep facilities are available for children aged over 2 years. Two cocoon beds are also available and are suitable for children aged over 15months who require a floor bed.</p>

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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 has been met:

Snacks will be provided by some of the parents for the children attending the service on a full day care/parttime basis.

An external catering company will provide the hot dinners for the children attending on a full day care and part time basis and these will be reheated by the service. A varied weekly menu is available in the service and was on display in the entrance lobby.

A refrigerator is available for the appropriate storage of perishable items. Potable drinking water is 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:

The requirement has been partially met:

- The external doors are appropriately secured by a keypad locking system, to prevent children exiting from the service unsupervised or to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- The designated emergency exits were clear and unobstructed.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and single use hand towels are available to promote effective hand hygiene practices.
- All cleaning products are inaccessible to the preschool children.
- All blind cords are restricted.
- No trailing cables, wires or flexes were accessible to the preschool children.

Requirement not met:

The requirement was not met as follows:

- One cot mattress did not have the required safety label to indicate that it meets with safety standards.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bin proposed for the disposal of soiled nappies was unsuitable as it was not foot operated and required multiple touch points. A number of low-level shelving units in both care rooms did not have sharp exposed corners protected.
Response from Provider:	<p>The registered provider submitted the following response together with photographic evidence via email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cot mattresses have been changed for cocoon beds that support rest on a floor setting. For children over 2 we have stackable beds that are raised off the floor. The bin and pull-out unit have been removed and it has been replaced with a large 30 lt non touch pedal bin. Additional corner protectors have been placed on all exposed corners that present a risk. These have been screwed in to minimise the risk of them coming off.
Summary Comment:	Based on the information 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) Documentary evidence was available to indicate that the service had a member of staff with up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training, available to the preschool children in the service at all times.</p> <p>(2) (a&b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the service and stored in a safe and conspicuous location.</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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) (a) A recording system is in place to maintain a record of monthly fire drills.
- (b) A maintenance record for the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available and was dated 08/2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was available in the service. The fire assembly point was clearly identified and visible.

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. Documentary evidence was available of adequate insurance cover for 44 pre-school children for full day care.

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been partially met:

- (a) On visual inspection the building appeared to be sound and stable.
- (b) The premises was safe and secure.
- (c)
 - The premises was adequately lit by means of natural lighting and supplemented by artificial lighting. All lights were fitted with protective covers.
 - The premises was heated by means of an electric heat pump system.
 - Ventilation was provided by means of open able windows and doors and an additional mechanical ventilation fan in the sanitary areas.
- (d)
 - The premises was found in a clean condition and in good repair.
- (e)
 - The service is equipped with an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins for a maximum of 33 preschool children at any one time who are toilet trained and 11 preschool children who require nappy changing facilities. One toilet and accompanying wash hand basin is provided for use by staff members.

Requirement not met:

The requirement was not met:

- (e) The sanitary area which is shared between Rooms 1 & 2 opened directly onto the care rooms and did not have doors so as to protect the dignity and privacy of the preschool children and to prevent foul odours permeating into the care rooms.

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Response from Provider:	The registered provider submitted the following response together with photographic evidence via email: (e) Doors have been established in both rooms to maintain the privacy and dignity of the children at all times.
Summary Comment:	Based on the information submitted the regulatory requirement has been met. Adequate facilities are available for a maximum of 33 children who are toilet trained to attend the service at any one time.

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>The requirement has been met:</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space for the proposed increase in numbers to 44 is available in the pre-school service for the children’s work, play and movement.</p> <p>(2) The following clear floor space is available in the care rooms:</p> <p>Room 1: A total of 42 m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 23 preschool children aged 2½ - 6 years on a sessional basis. Therefore, adequate clear floor space is available to cater for the proposed 22 preschool children to attend on a sessional basis. A maximum of 18 preschool aged 3-6 years can attend this room on a full day care or parttime basis.</p> <p>Room 2: A total of 54.5m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 30 preschool children aged 2½ -6 years on a sessional basis. Therefore, adequate clear floor space is available to cater for the proposed 22 preschool children to attend on a sessional basis.</p> <p>This also meets the space requirements for a maximum of 23 pre-school children aged 3- 6 years being accommodated in this room on a part-time or on a full day care</p>
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basis or 23 children aged 2-3 years attending on a full day or part time basis. In addition, this also meets the requirement for 19 children aged 1-2 years attending on a full day or part time basis.