

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2022LK001							
Name of Service	Coolmine Mid-West Early Years Service							
Address of Service:	Mahon House, 25 Upper William Street, Limerick, V94T8KR							
Email Address:	Caitriona.lynch@coolminetc.ie							
Name of Registered Provider:	Anita Harris							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time		Sessional			
	Drop-In	✓	Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	Change in Number of Children: from 10 to 13 Change in Service Type: from Drop In to Full Day & Drop In Change in Hours of Operation: from 10:00-12:00 (AM) and 14:00-16:00 (PM) to 08:45-16:00 (Full Day) and 10:00-12:00 and 14:00-16:00 (Drop In)							
Proposed Number of Children:	13							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Full Day & Drop In for 13 Children							
Registered change:	Change in service type from drop in to full day & drop in Change in hours from 10:00 – 12:00 & 14:00 – 16:00 to 08:45 – 16:00							
Date of Inspection:	0	3	0	4	2	0	2	5
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate – Tusla, 2nd Floor Estuary House Henry St, Limerick							

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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 & Drop In Service for 13 Children
Date of Registration	20th June 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>This registered drop-in service operates from Coolmine Mid-West, Mahon House 25 Upper William Street, Limerick City. Coolmine Mid-West is a drug and alcohol treatment centre that offers help to women to overcome addiction and support recovery. It provides childcare to women accessing the various programmes offered in Coolmine Mid-West and other external agencies. The service caters for children aged 0 to 6 years.</p> <p>The registered drop-in service proposes to operate in Room 1, Monday to Friday (five days a week) running from 10:00hrs to 12:00hrs and 14:00hrs to 16:00hrs. A maximum of 5 pre-school children will attend at any one time.</p> <p>The proposed full day care service will operate in Room 2, Monday to Friday running from 08:45hrs to 16:00hrs. A maximum of 8 preschool children will attend at any one time. Parents of the children attending full time will take their child out of the full day care room at 13.00hrs where they will go to the dining room and have dinner with their child. Parents can then return their child to the room at 14.00hrs for the afternoon until 16.00hrs.</p>
Premises	<p>The service is located on the third floor of Mahon House. Children will have access to two playrooms and sanitary facilities. The service plans to relocate to a more suitable and permanent location within the next six months.</p>
Staffing	<p>The service has two full-time staff working directly with the children each day including the designated person in charge. One additional staff member works part-time in the service. All of the adults working directly with the children hold a qualification in early years care and education, ranging from level five to eight on the National Qualifications Framework.</p>
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 are based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with the person in charge. These 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</p>

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge 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:

(1)(a) There will be a designated person in charge and a named person who will be able to deputise as required available at all times while the service is operational.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

(1) Two full-time staff and one part-time staff will work in the service, caring for a maximum of five pre-school children in the drop-in service and eight pre-school children in the full day care service. The service proposes to comply with the recommended adult /child ratios for the different age groups.

(8)(b) Not applicable as this is not a childminding service.

(c) Not applicable as this service is not operated single handedly.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

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- (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.
- (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 or
- (b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service
- (4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.
- (5) Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.

Requirement met:

- (1)(a) Both playrooms are well equipped with play materials and equipment. The rooms have areas of interest developed and all play equipment is stored at a low level, readily accessible to children. Facilities for outdoor play are not available on site. It is proposed that the local park will be used as the outdoor area for play on a temporary basis for a maximum of six months. The service is actively looking for an alternative location with facilities for outdoor play on site.
- (b) The service has rest areas in both playrooms consisting of adult seating, child sized couches and floor mats for children to use if they are tired during the day. There are two traditional style cots available for the younger children who propose to attend and sleep in as required.
- (2)(b) Not applicable as the service has not moved premises.
- (3)(a) Facilities for outdoor play are not available on site.
- (b) Facilities for outdoor play will be available in the local park. A risk assessment of the area and an outings policy have been completed to ensure children's safety while travelling to the play area off-site and whilst playing in the area.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The person in charge has ensured that the play area off-site is suitable as a risk assessment of the area and an outings policy have been completed to ensure children's safety while travelling to the play area off-site and whilst playing in the area.

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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:

Parents will provide all snacks for their child. Facilities are available for storage of perishable foods in a fridge in the room. Bottles can be reheated in a bottle warmer. Parents will provide their child with a hot meal at lunch time and the parent and child will go to the dining area to eat together at lunch time.

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 entrance door was locked and secured preventing unauthorised access and preventing a child leaving the service.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- The person in charge provided documentation which stated that the gas heating system had been certified safe in April 2025.
- Safe storage was provided for the children’s belongings.
- Storage for cleaning materials and equipment was provided in a secure area in a cupboard out of reach of the children.
- The person in charge was advised that water temperatures must be maintained at or below 43°C.
- There were no trailing flexes and there was no television or stereo in the service.
- There were no window blinds therefore the cords did not pose a potential hazard. Windows in both playrooms had restricted opening devices.
- All toys and play equipment were safe for the age of children using them.
- The person in charge provided documentation which stated that the building was rodent proofed in April 2025.

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.

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- (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:	(1) One staff member had updated training in first aid responder and the certificate is valid until 26 th February 2026. Two additional staff members have booked first Aid responder training commencing 16th of April 2025. (2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available on the premises. (b)The first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.
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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:	(1)(a) A record in writing was kept of fire drills practiced monthly and documentation was available to indicate this. (b)The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises was available and were last maintained in February 2025. Smoke alarms were last serviced in April 2024. (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the playroom at the exit door.
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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 registered provider had ensured that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change and has an expiry date of 31 st January 2026. It is documented on the insurance policy that operating a full day care service is covered.
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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,

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- (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:	<p>(a) On visual assessment, the building appeared to be of a sound and stable structure. The premises was well maintained and in a good state of repair. Water was from a public supply. The premises was linked to a public sewage system. Toilets and wash hand basins were functioning.</p> <p>(b) The entrance door was kept secured at all times.</p> <p>(c) The rooms had good levels of natural light via the windows. All lights were covered. The room temperature was recorded at 21°C. Ventilation was provided through openable windows in the rooms.</p> <p>(d) The premises was clean, and all fixtures and fittings were in good repair.</p> <p>(e) The sanitary accommodation included one toilet, and one wash hand basin designated for use by children. Suitable nappy changing facilities were available if required.</p> <p>Separate sanitary facilities for adults were available in the building also.</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.
- (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 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).
- (5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:	<p>(1) Adequate clear floor space is available in both rooms for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.</p> <p>(2) The measurements of the playrooms were recorded as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room 1 - 3.70m x 5.30m = 19.61 m² • Room 2 - 7.30m x 4.60m = 33.58 m² <p>(3) Children attending the drop-in centre will have a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space available for each child attending the service.</p>
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	(4)(a)(b) A sessional pre-school service and a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both will not be run concurrently. (5) Not applicable as this is not a temporary service.
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