

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



Tusla I.D:	TU2022LM002											
Name of Service:	Eivers Lane Childcare CLG											
Address of Service:	Credit Union Convent Lane Mohill Co. Leitrim N41X0H2											
Email Address:	manager@eiverslane.ie											
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Padraic McWeeney											
Type of Proposed Service:	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed service type:	Sessional											
Proposed Number of Children:	22 children											
Registered service:	Sessional pre-school service catering for up to 22 pre-school children at any one time.											
Date of Inspection:	1	9	0	1	2	0	2	2				
Inspection Undertaken by:	C. Daly											
Title:	Early Years Inspector											
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, St Conal's Campus, Kilmacrennan Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.											
Rationale for Inspection												
Proposed New Service												

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

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Registration Status:	Registered Sessional service for 22 preschool children
Date of Registration:	14 th February 2022

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	Eivers Lane Childcare CLG is a proposed new pre-school service situated in the town of Mohill, in county Leitrim. The proposal is to operate an early years sessional service catering for children aged from 2½ to 6 years and for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. It will be a community-based service and proposes to cater for a maximum of 22 children on the premises at any one time. The proposed opening hours during which the sessional pre-school service will be operated are weekdays from 9.30am - 12.30pm. Two other registered pre-school services that are operated by the same registered provider / local voluntary committee are also located in the town of Mohill, within close proximity to this newly proposed sessional service.
Premises	<p>The proposed service will operate from the ground floor of a commercial building in the town of Mohill. The premises has been purpose-adapted for the provision of a pre-school service. It consists of an entrance lobby, a playroom, a separate kitchen area, adult and children's toilet facilities and a store, all located on the ground floor. An enclosed outdoor play area is available on-site and is located to the rear of the pre-school premises.</p> <p>A paved area to the front of the pre-school building which features an access ramp and handrail leading to the main door is enclosed by fencing and gates which separate the premises from the adjacent public footpath. Parking to facilitate drop-off and collection is available nearby and the approach to the pre-school is served by a public footpath with overhead on-street lighting.</p>
Staffing	<p>The proposed registered provider has appointed a manager and deputy manager for the service. It is proposed that three centre-based staff will be employed to work as childcare practitioners in the service during its hours of operation. One of the staff members has been identified as the service's proposed designated person in charge and a second staff member has been assigned the role of proposed deputy designated person in charge. An additional (third) adult has been identified to provide relief cover in the event of staff absences.</p> <p>The service manager who facilitated the inspection stated that each of the three adults who will work directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.</p>
Methodology	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

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	<p>Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under two themes; Governance, and Safety.</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 presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. 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>
Acknowledgement	<p>The inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the service manager and deputy service manager who were both present at times during the day of the inspection, and the proposed registered provider who spoke with the inspector on the telephone to facilitate the inspection process.</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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service manager confirmed that the proposed registered provider has put in place arrangements to ensure that there is a designated person in charge and there is a named person available to deputise as required. The names of the adults to be assigned these responsibilities was available on the day of the inspection.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The service manager has stated that the registered provider will ensure there is an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service at all times.

The service staff are aware of the ratio of adults to children aged from 2 to 6 years old attending on a sessional basis that are specified in the Regulations, as outlined below;

Sessional:

Children aged 1 to 2½ years - 1 adult : 5 children

Children aged 2½ to 6 years - 1 adult : 11 children

The inspector was informed that a maximum of 22 pre-school children, all of whom will be aged 2½ years or older will attend the pre-school session upon commencement of the proposed service. The service manager confirmed that two adults are available to work in the proposed sessional service to ensure the required adult to child ratio is maintained. In the event of staff absences, arrangements are in place for the provision of relief cover by an additional named adult.

- (8)(b)
Not applicable as this is not a childminding service.
- (c)
Not applicable, this sessional service will not be operated single-handedly. The service manager confirmed that there will be two adults working with the children in attendance, at all times during the service’s operation.

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*
 - (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 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 pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.*
- (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:

The requirement has been met.

- (1)(a)
Adequate and suitable indoor play facilities were in place. The pre-school room was a spacious, bright, welcoming and colourful setting which was resourced with a variety

of play-based materials and equipment suitable for the age range and number of children proposed to attend the pre-school session. The layout of the pre-school room had been constructively planned to encourage children to make choices, independently access toys, equipment and materials and initiate self-directed learning. The service manager indicated that childcare practitioners would ensure that the play facilities and resources provided by the service would be tailored to meet the needs of the children who would be attending having regard to their developing interests and abilities. On the day of the inspection, there were several interest areas available, where equipment and materials of similar use were arranged or grouped together which help to support children’s sustained play and learning activities. For example, some of the interest areas/play resources set-up in the pre-school room included a range of transport toys and play landscape-settings such as a low-level transport themed table and traffic-patterned floor-mat; a construction / tool-bench equipped with a variety of toy tools and manoeuvrable resources; a home/kitchen corner including ovens, washing machine, telephone, cooking hob, sink and cupboards; a doll/baby-care area featuring dolls, a pram, baby-carrier and supporting equipment like bottles and clothing; play shop resources such as a shopping trolley, a wooden bakery stand and ice-cream cart; doctors-sets with play items (e.g. stethoscope); dress-up costumes and a selection of assorted figurines like dinosaurs and farm animals. Access to a good range of age-appropriate and stimulating books, mathematical equipment together with plentiful open-ended, mark-making and creative materials was provided to help to stimulate children’s creativity and emergent interest in literacy and numeracy. Low level tables, chairs, open-shelving units and attractively presented equipment and play resources were at a level easily accessible to children throughout the playroom. The entrance lobby contained an area fitted with coat hooks where children’s individual belongings such as spare clothing or outdoor wet gear could be stored.

The designated outdoor play facilities consist of a predominately tarmac-covered space located to the rear of the pre-school building which also featured a paved area and a small, sloped section surfaced with wood bark mulch. The outdoor play area featured space for children to experience a variety of outdoor play opportunities, including active physical and exploratory play. An assortment of age-appropriate toys and materials were set-up in the outdoor area on the day of the inspection including, for example, lidded sand and water tables with supporting resources such as a variety of containers and scoops, a basketball hoop with basketballs / footballs, a plastic playhouse, and a selection of cycling / ride-on toys including bicycles, scooters, go-carts, toy tractors, trailers and excavators. The service manager informed the inspector that additional play resources determined by the emerging interests of the children who will attend the pre-school service would be added. Photographs showing that a wooden mud-kitchen and a storage bunker for the safe storage of outdoor play equipment had been installed in the outdoor area were also submitted following the inspection.

(1)(b) Provisions were in place to ensure that adequate facilities for rest were provided in the service having regard to the number and age range of children to be accommodated and the duration of their attendance on a sessional basis. Two soft child-sized couches (vinyl-covered) and comfortable floor matting were provided in a

‘cosy corner’ of the pre-school room which was located away from high-traffic areas. This area offered the children a place to rest or relax comfortably or take a break from activities during the day. Stackable beds and a supply of clean linen are also available in the service for children over two years of age that may require a period of sleep whilst attending on a sessional or part-time basis. The proposal does not include an overnight pre-school service.

(2)(a) The proposed registered provider had ensured that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space is available on-site. The outdoor play facilities to which children would have access on a daily basis include a designated space located on-site to the rear of the pre-school building as described at section (1)(a) above. This designated outdoor play area was fully enclosed having been secured by perimeter walls and steel palisade or wooden lollipop fencing featuring securable gates. As there is a sloping layout to the site on which the pre-school is located, the outdoor play area was positioned at a higher elevation, above the level of the pre-school’s main entrance and indoor playroom. The outdoor play area was directly accessible by a pathway and set of concrete steps along the southern and western perimeter the building leading from the front of the pre-school to the outdoor play area at the rear. Alternatively, the outdoor play area could be accessed without using the steps/stairs by the more gently sloping route along the public footpath which runs immediately adjacent to the pre-school’s external site boundary. The service manager and deputy manager informed the inspector that a procedure and risk-assessment regarding the most suitable route for accessing the area had been devised and would be kept under review having regard to the needs of the children and adults attending the pre-school session.

(2)(b) Not applicable as this is a proposed new service and does not include a movement of premises.

(3)(4) & (5) Not applicable, as the proposed sessional service has an outdoor play area on the premises for use by the children enrolled.

Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services

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.

Children’s meal/snack requirements during the morning pre-school session are to be provided from home with parents / guardians being requested to supply the food for their child(ren) attending during the session.

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The service had developed a healthy eating policy to be communicated to parents/guardians that contained guidance on the provision of healthy food for children attending the pre-school. The policy promoted the selection of healthy food choices and listed items that were actively discouraged. The service manager confirmed that children will be offered a suitable alternative if they have forgotten to bring adequate supplies or if the food brought into the service by a child is not appropriate.

A refrigerator was provided in the pre-school's kitchen area for the storage of perishable food items supplied by parents / guardians of pre-school children. Children can bring their own drinks to pre-school and the service manager confirmed that supply of drinking water will also be available to the children at all times.

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; the following safety provision were noted to be in place on the day of inspection:

Doors:

- The emergency evacuation route from the pre-school room was identified by illuminated emergency exit signage.
- All designated emergency exits were observed to be clear and unobstructed.
- The main entrance door located to the front of the pre-school building was safely secured with a key-code security mechanism. This door was fitted with a magnetic door-release system activated from a sensor located out of pre-school children’s reach to help prevent their unsupervised exit from the setting.
- Windows and glass panelled doors with a view onto the service’s main entrance provide staff with visibility of those approaching the service and the service manager indicated that all access doors and gates will be controlled by staff to facilitate the entry and exit of pre-school children and any authorised visitors to the service.
- Internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas and door keys were kept out of children’s reach but readily available to staff when required.

Windows:

- Low level windows to which children had access were fitted with restrictive opening devices that could be released by an adult in the event of an emergency.
- No blind cords or curtains were installed.

Staircases:

- The pre-school facility is located on the ground floor and there were no staircases in the indoor areas accessible to children or staff. As detailed under Regulation 20(2)(a), the outdoor play area was elevated above the level of the pre-school’s main entrance/exit and could be accessed via one set of concrete steps (consisting of approximately 15 no. steps). These steps were fitted with a handrail running at both standard and low-levels to support use by persons of varying height.

Toys and Equipment:

- All toys and play resources available on the day of inspection were noted to be clean, in good repair and appropriate for the age range of children proposed to attend the service.

- Toys and play equipment were organised in a manner that allowed for safe and free movement of children within the service. The service manager informed the inspector that overhead shelving had been securely anchored to the wall and stable-based low-level shelving was used to store play materials and equipment in the pre-school room helping to reduce the risk of furniture from toppling over and causing injury.

Electrical Safety:

- Electrical sockets, flexes and equipment were in noted to be in good repair with no obvious signs of damage or disrepair evident. There was no television in the service and stereo cables were kept out of the children’s reach.

Storage:

- The service’s cleaning products and waste materials were stored safely out of reach of the children. Storage for cleaning materials and equipment was provided in a secure area or in a locked cupboard with keys kept out of the children’s reach. There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in the sanitary area, and in all other areas within the service. Central waste storage facilities were located off the pre-school premises and the service manager explained that all waste will be removed and disposed of daily, following the conclusion of each session.

Outdoor spaces

- The boundary of the pre-school service’s designated outdoor play area was fully enclosed. Its perimeter was bounded by a combination of walls, palisade steel fencing and sections enclosed by wooden fencing which incorporated gates with closing mechanisms with CCTV monitoring covering the outdoor play area, entrance/exit in addition to sections of the playroom. The service manager indicated that routine risk-assessments covering outdoor play facilities would be carried out on an ongoing basis and confirmed that provisions for adequate supervision of children when using the outdoor area were in place to ensure this area could be used safely by the children attending.

General Health and Safety Measures:

- Warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at the wash hand basins in the service’s pre-school room and sanitary accommodation to facilitate handwashing. Child-friendly handwashing prompts/posters were on display at handwashing stations to support good hand hygiene practices and promote effective infection control in the setting.
- A refrigerator was available in the pre-school’s kitchen area for the safe storage of perishable food items brought from home.
- The warm water at wash-hand basins which children can access was thermostatically controlled and temperature measurements of the warm

running water at these locations recorded on the day of inspection did not exceed the maximum safe recommended temperature of 43°C.

- Fire drill records were available to record monthly fire drills practised within the pre-school service to ensure the safe evacuation of pre-school children in the event of an emergency on the premises.
- No hazardous objects or sharp implements were observed in the pre-school room.
- The kitchen area was not currently in use by the service during the operating hours of the pre-school and this area had been made inaccessible to the children using both a secure door and a wooden gate fitted with a child lock mechanism.
- Pull cords in the nappy-changing area were secured safely.
- A storage container which would be kept in a secured cupboard out of children’s reach was provided for the storage of medications, if required.
- The service manager confirmed that daily inspection and risk assessment of indoor and outdoor play environments will take place in the service.

Safe Sleep:

- The proposal is to enrol pre-school children aged 2½ years and over. The service manager confirmed that any children who sleep whilst attending the service will be physically monitored in the setting while they sleep. The inspector was advised that staff will be given clear guidance on safe sleep practices and a template for the required records of sleep monitoring was available for use in the setting.

Infection Control (COVID-19):

Having regard to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the inspection also focused on specific infection control measures in the setting. The following are examples of measures taken by the service to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children;

- Safety signage advising about COVID-19 symptoms, physical distancing requirements and non-attendance at the setting if symptomatic was prominently positioned at the drop-off and collection point.
- The service manager stated that children will be taught about effective handwashing and respiratory etiquette and the service were planning to display age-appropriate posters featuring pictorial reminders to promote effective infection control practices.
- Alcohol based hand sanitisers were available to the staff/visitors at the entrance to the pre-school and within the pre-school room.
- The service manager was conversant with the service’s procedures to be followed should a staff member or child in their care develop symptoms of COVID-19. An area within the service had been identified for use as the designated isolation area. In the event that an adult or a child should experience symptoms of COVID-19, this area was easily accessible and had a

supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) stored safely and conveniently nearby. The area was readily cleanable and featured a nearby openable window and door to supported natural purge ventilation if necessary.

- The service manager stated that induction training which included training in infection control would be provided for all staff members prior to any proposed commencement of the pre-school service’s operation.
- The service had an attendance book to record attendance of children and staff, thereby ensuring that a record would be maintained to facilitate effective contact-tracing in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease in the setting.
- In order to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 which is more transmissible in indoor settings, the service manager advised the inspector that the service sought to ensure that the children spent time playing outdoors each day. In the pre-school room natural ventilation was provided via two openable windows which could be left ajar at various times during the pre-school day to promote regular air exchange in the room.
- A supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as face masks, aprons and gloves required for cleaning and care practices was available for use when required. These were kept out of children’s reach.
- The service planned to ask parents to provide a change of clothing for each child which could be kept in the service so as to limit the risk of transmission of infection should their clothing become soiled.
- Documented cleaning schedules which had been devised having regard to COVID-19 were available for use in the setting. Toys available appeared easy to clean and disinfect. The service manager confirmed that staff were aware that toys which children had put in their mouths needed to be taken out of use until they had been cleaned and a designated, clearly-labelled plastic box was available for this purpose.
- The inspector was informed that play materials that cannot be effectively cleaned following use such playdough will be discarded / replaced daily.
- A supply of disposable tissues was available in the pre-school room and lidded pedal operated bins were located in the sanitary areas and pre-school room for the hygienic and safe disposal of used paper hand towel and tissues.
- The service manager confirmed that in line with public health guidelines bed linen would not be shared between children and would be washed regularly per instructions. Arrangements were in place to ensure clean bed linen and linen awaiting washing would be stored in a separate area to prevent cross contamination.

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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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The service supplied documentary evidence showing that one staff member who would be working with children attending the service on a daily basis and the service's designated staff member appointed to provide relief cover had both completed training in first aid for children (FAR). Respectively, the certificates of training seen by the inspector showed expiry dates of 22/02/2022 and 21/06/2023 in respect of these staff members. The service manager also informed the inspector that training and re-certification was being arranged for staff whose certification was nearing expiry.

(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in a conspicuous position in the pre-school room. This was stored on a high shelf, well-marked and was easily accessible to the adults should a child who they were caring for in the service require first aid treatment.

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 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 has been met.

(1)(a) Documentation was in place to facilitate ongoing recording of fire drills occurring in the pre-school.

(b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms located in the pre-school. A certificate of installation was provided by service engineer showing that the service's firefighting equipment was installed in accordance with the Irish Standards 291:2015 on 30/11/2021. The service had a written record confirming that the fire detection and alarm system was serviced/tested on 17/12/2021 in accordance with the requirements of I.S. 3218:2013.

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(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in a conspicuous position in the premises. This notice was prominently displayed on the notice board in the pre-school room. There was a clearly identified fire assembly point which was marked by appropriate signage on a low wall adjoining a footpath which was located across the public road from the service (accessible by a pedestrian crossing).

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met. Documentary evidence was submitted in the form of a cover note demonstrating that adequate insurance had been obtained covering a maximum of 22 children per session, effective from 05/01/2022 to 28/02/2022.

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 met.

(a) On visual assessment, the pre-school room and wider premises proposed to accommodate children and staff, appeared to be of sound and stable structure. The premises was well maintained and in a good state of repair with no visible defects apparent on the day of the inspection. The service manager informed the inspector that a potable water supply was provided from the public water supply serving the town of Mohill and that the premises was linked to the public sewerage system. Toilets, wash-hand basins and drainage systems all appear to be functioning correctly on the day of the inspection.

(b) The service manager confirmed that arrangements are in place for adequate supervision of access and egress to the premises at all times during the operation of the pre-school so as to limit the risk of children exiting unsupervised and ensure staff were aware of visitors seeking access to the setting. The pre-school's designated outdoor play area is set back from the public road and is enclosed by walls, fencing and securable gates. A dedicated secure main entrance leading into the pre-school room was fitted with a security mechanism which enabled staff to safely control access via this route.

(c) Ample natural light was supplied to the pre-school room through two large windows in the pre-school room. Glazing in the lobby and high-level windows located in the two of the toilet areas provided a supply of natural light in these areas also. Additional artificial lighting consisted of ceiling-mounted fluorescent lighting units with diffusers, all in good working order. Emergency lighting had also been installed in the premises.

An oil-fired central heating system was installed and functioning on the day of inspection. Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that the heating system had been last serviced in December 2021. The heating system could be thermostatically controlled and there was a digital display in the pre-school room which ensured staff were aware of the temperature settings. The service manager was cognisant of maintaining the air temperature of the pre-school within recommended limits and an ambient air temperature ranging between 19°C and 20°C was measured in the indoor pre-school environment during inspection.

Natural purge ventilation was supplied via openable windows/doors in the pre-school room and lobby areas the children’s toilet accommodation. Fresh air could circulate throughout the children’s pre-school room and there was no evidence of condensation or mould growth noted during the inspection. The ceiling mounted mechanical ventilation apparatus located in the adult’s toilet was seen to be running effectively on the day of the inspection and all ceiling/wall mounted ventilation ducts throughout the pre-school were observed to be clean and unblocked.

(d) The newly furnished pre-school room was decorated appropriately for its purpose as an Early Years Service. The premises, its play equipment and materials were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Documented cleaning procedures and schedules had been developed and cleaning record checklists were on display within the premises. These included provision for a staff member to take responsibility for specified cleaning tasks. Central waste storage facilities are located off-premises so no accumulated waste will be stored so that it is accessible to children from the designated on-site outdoor play area. Pest control measures were in place with the pre-school having engaged the services of a pest control contractor and having developed a pest control policy outlining preventative measures and actions to be taken in the event of pests being detected.

(e) There is sufficient sanitary accommodation available for the numbers of adults and children proposed for the service. There are three separate sanitary areas as follows;

- A toilet block comprising of one toilet cubicle and one wash hand basin could be accessed from a small lobby directly off the pre-school room.
- Another toilet block could also be accessed directly from this lobby. This included one accessible toilet and one wash hand basin. This area was also equipped with a mobile nappy-changing table and mat unit, should this be required.
- A third toilet facility could be accessed from the main entrance lobby and featured one standard toilet and wash hand basin.

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Two low-level wash hand basins were also provided in the pre-school room. One of the toilets and wash hand basins available in the service is designated for use solely by the adults working in the service.

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).*
- (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:

The requirement for this regulation has been met. Adequate clear floor space is provided in the proposed pre-school room for the work, play and movement of the children that it is planned to accommodate.

A floor area of 47m² was measured on the day of inspection which is sufficient to cater for the maximum number of 22 pre-school children aged 2½ years or older that it is proposed will attend on a sessional basis.