

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2023CC001

Name of Service: Tír Na Sí Farm Preschool and Daycare

Address of Service: Fermoy Road
Condonstown South
Watergrasshill
Co. Cork

Email Address: tirnasipreschoolanddaycare@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Julia McCarthy

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type:	Full day care, sessional
Proposed Number of Children:	44 sessional, 40 full day care
Outcome of the F06 Inspection	44 sessional, 40 full day care, children aged 2 to 6 years
Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care / Sessional Service for 44 Children (Max 40 FDC)

Date of Inspection: 1 9 0 6 2 0 2 3

Inspection Undertaken by: D Prendergast
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus
Gurranabraher, Cork

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care / Sessional Service for 44 Children (Max 40 FDC)
Date of Registration:	30 th June 2023

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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	Tír Na Sí Farm Preschool and Daycare proposes to provide a full day care service, including sessional care, for children aged two to six years. This includes children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, which is proposed to operate between 9.00am and 12.00pm, from Monday to Friday, over 38 weeks annually. Proposed daily opening hours are from 8.00am to 6.00pm, over 46 weeks of the year.
Premises	The proposed childcare service is located in a rural area of Watergrasshill in Co. Cork, on the grounds of an open farm. It is a block-built premises, which consists of two care rooms. Children's sanitary facilities are provided either adjoining or adjacent to the care rooms and a staff sanitary facility is also available. The service also includes an office and a boot room. An enclosed outdoor play area is accessible from each of the care rooms.
Staffing	It is proposed that the service will employ five adults in total. This includes the registered provider, who will be available to assist with the direct care of the children and a kitchen based staff member, who will not work directly with the 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 four 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 the registering application. 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	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and person in charge, who facilitated the inspection.

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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) A named person in charge of operating the service has been appointed, along with a deputy person in charge who can deputise, as required. Information to this effect is visible on the wall in the entrance area.

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) It is proposed that in each of the care rooms, up to 22 children, aged 2 ½ to 5 years, will attend the sessional service, with two adults available in both rooms. In relation to the provision of full day care, the registered provider will ensure that the correct adult to child ratios are maintained, according to the number and age range of children who will avail of same.

A minimum of two adults will be available on the premises at all times, while the service is in 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, 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:

The requirement has been partially met.

(1)

(a) The low set, easily accessible shelving units in the care rooms are furnished with age and stage appropriate play materials, which are properly functioning and well maintained. Other play resources such as play kitchens and large dolls’ houses, are stored at floor level.

The outdoor play environment is equipped to accommodate active play and exploration. There is a large wooden climbing frame, with a number of swings, a climbing wall, a ladder, two slides and a bridge. The area also features a generously sized digging space, with sit-on diggers, a wooden seesaw and a round-a-bout.

(b) There are adequate rest areas in place, which consist of large vinyl floor mats, with cushions, soft toys and books. Two sleep mats are provided for children who may require sleep while in attendance and fitted sheets and cellular blankets have also been purchased.

(2)

(a) An enclosed outdoor play space is available on site.

Requirement not met:

(1)(a)

There is an inadequate amount of child-sized tables and chairs available, to cater for the proposed number of children. It is proposed that both care rooms will accommodate 22 children, however, Room 1 has 9 chairs and 2 tables and Room 2 has 13 chairs and 3 tables.

(2)(a)

The wooden entrance gate, which forms part of the outdoor play area enclosure, is not of a sufficient height to prevent a child from exiting while unsupervised, or to reduce the risk of unauthorised access.

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Response from Provider:	(1)(a) Both rooms now have 22 chairs with corresponding tables. (2)(a) The entrance gate and fencing have been elevated with longer fence posts.
Summary Comment:	Photographic evidence has been provided in relation to the additional tables and chairs and the raised entrance gate and fence. The requirement is met.

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:

The requirement has been met.
A Healthy Eating policy has been developed and is suitable to the type of service proposed. For the children who will attend full day care, all meals and snacks will be provided by the service. A three-week menu plan, which includes suitably varied and nutritious meals, is available to this effect. The parents or guardians of the children who will attend the sessional service only, will supply food for their children's snack breaks. Up to five meal breaks will be accommodated daily; breakfast, a mid-morning snack, a hot lunch meal, an afternoon snack and tea. The hot meal will be prepared in the café kitchen and served in the care rooms. The registered provider advised that the children will have access to their reusable water bottles throughout the day.

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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.

<p>Requirement met:</p>	<p>The requirement has been partially met.</p> <p>General safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no trailing flexes or cables within the children’s reach. • The first aid box is safely stored. • The available fire extinguishers are securely wall mounted. • Fire exit doors are unobstructed. • The play materials examined were noted to be free from pinch points. <p>Infection control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm running water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels are available at most of the wash hand basins across the service. • Refrigerators are in place to store the children’s perishable snacks.
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>General safety:</p> <p>The following may pose a risk of injury to a child:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The boiler house enclosure in the outdoor play area, is directly accessible through an open gap, as the installation of a door is awaited. 2. In the boot room, the door to the storage cupboard is unsecured and a work bench and carpentry materials are accessible on the floor. <p>Infection control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Disposable paper towels are unavailable at the outdoor wash hand basins, for hygienic hand drying.
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>General safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The boiler house door is now in place. 2. The storage cupboard door is in place, with a key locking system. The materials have also been removed. <p>Infection control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. A disposable paper towel dispenser has been installed at the outdoor handwashing sink.
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>Photographic evidence was submitted to demonstrate that a door has been installed in the boiler house. Further photographs demonstrated that the storage cupboard door now has a key lock, that the carpentry materials have been removed and that a paper towel dispenser has been provided at the outdoor wash hand basins. The requirement is met.</p>

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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 has been met.

(1) Two of the adults proposed to work at the early years service hold current First Aid Responder (FAR) certification, which is valid until 25 May 2025.

(2)

(a) A fully stocked first aid box is readily accessible in the office.

(b) The first aid box will be available throughout the hours of operation.

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) The fire drills undertaken at the service will be documented and maintained on file. Provision to record same is in place.

(b) A written record of the number and type of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms is available. New firefighting equipment was installed on 6 June 2023 and a fire detection and alarm system was installed in April 2023.

(4) Notices regarding the steps to be taken in the event of a fire, are displayed in both care rooms and in the entrance area. The fire assembly point is clearly identified.

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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:

Full insurance was provided to the Registration Office on 29th July 2023, valid from 28/08/23 until 27/03/24 covering a maximum of 44 Children.

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) The premises consists of a single storey building, which, following a visual assessment, appears to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The main entrance door is secured by a key lock mechanism on the exterior, which will reduce the risk of unauthorised access.
- (c)
 - A combination of natural and artificial lighting is provided in the care rooms; both rooms have a large tilt window and two glass panelled fire exit doors, along with LED ceiling lights. Protective covers are installed on some of the lights, while wicker lamp shades are fitted over the shatterproof hanging bulbs. LED lights with protective covers are also available in the sanitary facilities.
 - Oil heating is in place at the service.
 - There are openable windows in both care rooms and the sanitary facilities are equipped with mechanical ventilation.
- (d) The premises is clean and well maintained. A programme of cleaning has been devised and includes provision to record frequent cleaning throughout the service.
- (e) There are four children’s toilets, with four adjacent wash hand basins indoors and an additional wash hand basin and a handwashing trough are provided outdoors. For adult’s use, there is a separate indoor, accessible toilet facility, with one toilet and a wash hand basin. A nappy changing unit is provided in the accessible toilet, for any child who may require nappy changing. Water is supplied via a private well and a domestic wastewater treatment system is in place.

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<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The installation of skirting boards is not complete in the boot room or in the three sanitary areas. 2. In the accessible toilet facility, grab rails are currently stored on the floor, as installation is awaited. <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The nappy changing unit requires a step-up facility for children’s safe access. 4. The sink in the boot room is not available for use.
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The skirting boards in the boot room and in the sanitary areas have been installed. 2. The grab rails have been installed. <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Steps up to the nappy changing unit have been installed. 4. Taps have been installed in the sink in the boot room.
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>Photographic evidence has been forwarded in relation to each of the stated corrective measures. The requirement is met.</p>

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.
- (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).

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate clear floor space is provided to accommodate the children’s freedom of movement as they work, play and engage with their indoor environment.
- (2) The registered provider has ensured that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for the proposed age range of children and the proposed number of children who will attend as follows:

Room name and age range of children	Available clear floor space	Number of children that can be accommodated per room at any one time
Room 1	49.7m ²	22 children attending the sessional service or the proposed 20 children aged 2 ½ to 5 ½ years attending full day care
Room 2	50m ²	22 children attending the sessional service or the proposed 20 children aged 2 ½ to 5 ½ years attending full day care

- (4) The registered provider proposes to contemporaneously cater for children attending the sessional service and the full day care service. Both care rooms allow for each of the proposed 22 children attending the sessional service, to have a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space during this time.