

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D.:** TU2023CE001

**Name of Service** Laura's Childcare

**Address of Service:** Knocksaggart, Ballynacally, Ennis, County Clare, V95 XP77

**Email Address:** laura.corbett1995@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Laura Corbett

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

**Proposed change:** Proposed change from provision of Sessional and Part-time care to provision of Full Day Care in the Pre-school room. Proposed change of operational hours from 9:30 to 14:00 to 08:00 to 18:00 in the Pre-school room.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 22 Pre-school children

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Provision of Full day care in the Pre-school room. Service operational hours 08:00 to 18:00 in the Pre-school room.

**Registered change:** Provision of Full day care in the Pre-school room. Service operational hours 08:00 to 18:00 in the Pre-school room.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	5	0	2	2	0	2	6
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**Inspection undertaken by:** A. McCarthy & J. Hayes

**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Quality and Regulation Directorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Ennis Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis County Clare

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### Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	<b>Registerer Full Day, Part-Time &amp; Sessional Service for 22 Children</b>
<b>Date of Registration</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>

### 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Lauras Childcare was established in 2023, in the rural village of Ballynacally, on the outskirts of Ennis, County Clare. The service is registered with Tusla to operate a part-time service, in the pre-school room, Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 14:00 for children aged two to six years. A registered school age service also operates currently from the Pre-school room.
<b>Premises</b>	The service is located in the single-story part of an adapted commercial premises. The pre-school room is used to facilitate a programme of care for pre-school children. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of the premises. An outdoor room is located in the outdoor area with two sanitary facilities and used for storage of equipment and cleaning agents.
<b>Staffing</b>	Seven adults are employed by the service. The registered provider and service manager provide an administrative role and relief cover.  On the 05 February 2026 the registered provider stated that two adults will work alongside the registered provider and manager to work directly with the pre-school children. One adult will work directly with the school aged children. One adult will be employed to reheat the food and clean the service.
<b>Methodology</b>	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)

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	<p>(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>
<b>Additional Information</b>	The service was found to be operating full day care hours prior to approval from the Registration Office.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, the staff member and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

### Part III - Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—*

*(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)

On the 05 February 2026 the registered provider was the person in charge, and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

**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 was met.

(1)

The registered provider and three adults are employed to care for the twenty-two pre-school children proposed to attend on a full day care basis.

**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*

*(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:**

The requirements were met.

(1)(a)

**Indoor Environment:**

The open plan care room was spacious and bright and laid out with areas to facilitate the free movement of children within the room. The care room was equipped with low level tables, chairs and shelving. A toy kitchen with supporting equipment, a home corner, a wooden unit with a large variety of dress up clothes and construction area were available. Jigsaws, puzzles, bricks and shape sorters were stored on the shelving units. Two tuff trays for sensory play and learning and development were accessible to the children. The wall displayed a family and birthday section and an activity board with

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locks, hinges, switches. A bookshelf stored reading materials this was adjacent to the soft furnishings.

### Outdoor Environment:

The outdoor area consisted of an all-weather rubberised surface. The perimeter was secured by wooden fencing and a gate. Areas of interest included: a pretend playhouse, a mud kitchen, a water table, a sand table, a slide, rocking toys, hoppers, toy vehicles such as tractors, a car and bikes. A shed is available to store the equipment when not in use.

(b)

An area equipped with a selection of soft furnishings is available for children to rest and relax during the day. Sleep mattresses are available for children to sleep or rest when required.

## 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 was met.

The registered provider stated that parents will provide the food for the children and that a hot meal, three snacks and beverages will be provided for the children attending on a full day care and part-time basis. The food will be reheated and served by the adults daily to the children. A microwave and a toaster are available in the kitchen for the purpose of reheating the food. Appropriate crockery is accessible to the children in the pre-school room. A refrigerator is available to store the children's perishable food items. A healthy eating policy was available to inform the adults and parents/guardians of the service's procedures. Evidence was available demonstrating that the policy has been shared with all parents of the children attending the service.

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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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

Internal and external access to the service was secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The service has video surveillance, a bell operated and key coded system to access the service. A high-level switch is accessible to adults only to monitor the entry of adults to the service. A visitors' book was available at the entrance to record unauthorised persons entering the service. Electric items were inaccessible to the pre-school children. Warm running water was available at the wash hand basins. The water temperatures at the wash hand basins in the nappy changing facility and sanitary facilities adjacent to the pre-school rooms were recorded as ranging from 30.4 to 38.4 °Celsius. Hazardous items were stored in cabinets out of the reach of children. Fire exit routes and the passageways were clear of all obstructions in the event of an emergency. Fire exit signage was readily identifiable.

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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 requirements were met.

(1)

Two adults employed in the service have a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in the care room.

(b)

The first aid box was available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

### 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 requirements were met.

(1)(a)

Records of completed fire drills were available. The most recent fire drill took place on the 07 January 2026.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the

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firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system took place respectively on the 26 August 2025 and the 19 January 2026.

(4)

A fire action notice demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the service was available.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

Up to date insurance cover was available for the number of children attending the service on a full day care basis.

### 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:

(a)

The pre-school room appears visually to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

The internal and external access points to the service were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.

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	<p>(c)</p> <p>The service was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting. The lighting can be dimmed throughout the building.</p> <p>The service was heated by means of a heat recovery/air to water under floor heating system.</p> <p>The ambient pre-school room temperature was recorded at 20.5°Celsius which was within the optimum care room temperature range of 18 to 22 °Celsius.</p> <p>Natural and mechanical ventilation is available in the care room and sanitary facilities.</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>The service and equipment within were maintained in clean condition. A cleaning schedule was available to demonstrate the measures that will take place to maintain the service in a clean condition.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>Two sanitary facilities and a nappy changing facility were available for use by the children. These facilities were equipped with toilets, wash hand basins with running warm water, liquid soap, hand driers, and lined and lidded pedal operated bins.</p>
<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p>The requirement was not met.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>Two adult toilets and wash hand basins were provided in the outdoor room however this part of the premises did not have electricity, warm water or heating provided. Additional adult sanitary accommodation was available on the first floor of the premises however this cannot currently be used as directed by the local authority fire officer.</p>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>The registered provider provided the following response:</p> <p><b>Corrective Actions</b></p> <p>On the day of the fit for purpose inspection the electricity and the heating did not work in the shed where the two adult toilets are located. After checking the fuse box there was a switch tripped for the shed. The registered provider put the switch back up and the electricity restored for the lights and the heat. The registered provider</p>

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	<p>has contacted the builder who has made contact with the plumber who said he will attend the service on the Friday 13 February to rectify warm water.</p> <p>On the 13 February a photograph of a thermopen indicating the water temperature at the wash hand basin is 38.1 °Celsius. The registered provider has stated that the plumber has taken action and resolved the cold-water temperatures in the adult wash hand basins.</p> <p><b>Preventive Actions</b></p> <p>The registered provider will monitor the fuse board daily and take temperatures of the water in the shed daily in line with the risk assessments the service carries out.</p> <p><b>Evidence:</b></p> <p>Photographic and documentary evidence.</p>
<p><b>Summary comment:</b></p>	<p>Based on the corrective actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider the requirements are met under Regulation 29 (e). The implemented measures taken will be reviewed on next inspection.</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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirements were met.

(1)

The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space was available in the service to enable the pre-school children to move and play within the pre-school room. The total available floor space measured 54 m<sup>2</sup>.

(2)

The space available of 54m<sup>2</sup> will accommodate 22 pre-school children proposed to attend the pre-school room on a full day care basis.