

# 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, 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>	✓	<b>Part-Time</b>	✓	<b>Sessional</b>	✓
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

**Proposed change:** Proposed change from part-time to provision of full day care. Proposed additional newly built Toddler room. Proposed change in age profile from 2 to 6 years to 18 months to 5 years. Proposed change of hours from 09:30 to 14:00 to 08:00 to 18:00. Total number that can be accommodated from 22 preschool children to 33 pre-school children. Proposed change from three to five members of staff employed in the service.

**Proposed Number of Children:** Proposed 33 pre-school children.

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Change not approved as fire compliance on completion certificate outstanding under regulation 23.

**Registered change:** Change not approved – service to remain registered as full day care service for 22 children in preschool room only.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	2	1	0	2	0	2	5
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**Inspection undertaken by:** A. McCarthy

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, County Clare, V95 XP77.

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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>Remains Unchanged – Full Day, Part-Time &amp; Sessional Service for 22 Children</b>
<b>Date of Registration</b>	<b>09 March 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 proposes to change from a sessional service to operate as a full day care service. A programme of care and education will be provided for children ranging in age from two to six years, Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 18:00. School aged childcare is provided on the first level each afternoon.
<b>Premises</b>	The service is located in a purposely adapted premises that was converted from commercial use. Care and education will be facilitated from two care rooms on the ground floor. Sanitary facilities for the children and adults, a kitchen and administrative office are located on the ground floor. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of the premises.
<b>Staffing</b>	The registered provider and four adults will work directly with the children. The registered provider is the owner and provides an administrative role and works directly with the children.
<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) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the Child, Safety and Premises.

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	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.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff 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)

The registered provider confirmed that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

### 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)—

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

#### Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)

The registered provider confirmed that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children. The registered provider and four adults will care for the thirty-two children proposing to attend.

(8)(a)

The staff roster demonstrated that at least two adults will be working in the service at all times.

**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.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)

Both the indoor and outdoor environments were adequately resourced for the proposed number of children that would be attending the service.

**Indoor Environment:**

The two open plan care rooms were spacious and bright and laid out with designated interest areas. The care rooms were equipped with low level tables, chairs and shelving. The rooms were equipped with an art station, a home corner, a dress up area, a construction unit, a farm set and a dolls house. A bookshelf stored a large range of reading materials; this was adjacent to a sensory board and soft furnishings.

Shelving unit with labelled containers were equipped with small and large animals, shape sorters, puzzles, games, connectors, activity units, stackable rings, a ball play area, lock and key blocks, stencils, a train set, magnetic tiles, cubes, peg boards, stickle bricks, musical instruments, modelling clay and sand. Visual learning aids, positive affirmations, a family and a birthday wall were displayed in the care rooms.

	<p><b>Outdoor Environment:</b></p> <p>The outdoor area consisted of an all-weather rubberised surface. The perimeter was secured by wooden fencing. 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.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>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.</p>
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**Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service**

**Regulation 22 – Food and Drink**

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement was met.</p> <p>The registered provider confirmed that parents will provide a hot meal, two snacks and beverages for the children attending on a full day care basis. The food will be reheated and served by the adults daily to the children. Two microwaves and toasters are available for the purpose of reheating the food. Appropriate crockery is accessible to the children in each 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 of the service’s procedure. The policy has been shared with all parents of the children that will be attending.</p>
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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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, 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 book was available at the entrance to record unauthorised persons entering the service. Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children proposed to attend the service. Electric items were inaccessible to the pre-school children. Warm running water was available at the wash hand basins. The water temperature was recorded as ranged from 43 to 44.2°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 and the fire assembly point were readily identifiable.

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 was met.

(1)

The registered provider and a second adult held an up-to-date record of First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was available and accessible in the care room for staff to use in the event of an emergency.

(b)

The first aid box will be available for use at all times by adults.

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 was met.

(1)(a)

Records of monthly fire drills were available. A fire drill was completed on the 26 August 2025.

(b)

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Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the smoke alarm system and firefighting equipment. The most recent service of the smoke alarm system and the firefighting equipment took place on the 26 August 2025.

(4)

Fire action notices were displayed at the exit/entry points demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

### 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 was available for children attending on a full day care basis and 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 was met.

(a)

The building appears visually to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

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

(c)

The service was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting. The lighting can be dimmed throughout the building. The service was heated by means of a heat recovery/air to water under floor heating system. The ambient temperatures of the care room and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°Celsius. Natural and mechanical ventilation is available in the care rooms and sanitary facilities.

(d)

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.

(e)

Three sanitary facilities and a nappy changing facility were available for use by the children equipped with a toilet, a wash hand basin with running warm water, liquid soap, a hand drier, and lined and a lidded pedal operated bin. The adult toilet is located on the first level.

**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) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*  
*(a) a sessional pre-school service, and*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement was met.

(1)

The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the preschool service to enable the children to move and play within the care rooms. The total available floor space measured 27.47m<sup>2</sup> in the Toddler room. The total available floor space measured 54m<sup>2</sup> in the preschool room.

(2)

The space available 27.47 m<sup>2</sup> will allow the proposed number of 10 preschool children attending on a full day care basis in the Toddler room. The space available 54 m<sup>2</sup> will allow 16 preschool children in the preschool room attending on a full day care basis in the pre-school room.

(3)(a)

The registered provider ensured that a minimum of 1.818 m<sup>2</sup> clear floor space is available for each child attending on a sessional basis. The space available 54m<sup>2</sup> will allow the proposed number of 22 preschool children attending the sessional basis service.