

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



**Tusla I.D:** TU2023DL003

**Name of Service:** The Meadow Childcare

**Address of Service:** Ballygay., Milford, Donegal. F92F6YA

**Email Address:** themeadowchildcare@outlook.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Ms Neasa McBride

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

**Proposed change:** To establish a childminding service in conjunction with sessional service. (Fit for Purpose Inspection has been completed for sessional service).

**Proposed Number of Children:** 5 children

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Recommend approval for change to approve the addition of a childminding service.

**Registered change:** Addition of a Service Type from Sessional to Sessional and Childminding (Max 5 Children childminding)

**Date of Inspection:** 0 8 0 9 2 0 2 3

**Inspection undertaken by:** L. Costello

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate  
Markievicz House,  
Barrack St, Sligo.

### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Sessional & Childminding Service for 15 Children (Max 5 childminding)

**Date of Registration** 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023



Child and Family Agency Act 2013  
Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

Version 05  
Implemented- Aug 2022  
EYIPRIRPCOCS01-2017

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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).

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Description of Service</b> | The registered provider is proposing to operate a childminding service in addition to a sessional service. The childminding service will operate to cater for a maximum of 5 children aged from 2.8 years to 6 years.  |
| <b>Premises</b>               | The premises is located in a rural area 3 km from the town of Milford. The childminding service is located in the registered provider's home. The sessional service is adjacent to the Registered providers home and consists of one preschool room, a kitchenette, sanitary accommodation for the children and staff.   |
| <b>Staffing</b>               | The Registered provider will be the sole operator of the childminding service with a named emergency contact person.   |
| <b>Methodology</b>            | <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 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>Acknowledgements</b>       | The Inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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:**

Requirement met.

(1)(a).

The registered provider is the designated person in charge and has a nominated person to deputise as required. Garda vetting requirements are in place for all adults aged over 18 that have access to the registered providers home, where the childminding takes place.

**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*

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1). The applicant is aware of the requirements in relation to adult child ratios and will ensure they are met as evidenced by rota.

(8)(b). The registered provider has a designated emergency person who is located within a close distance to the service and is available to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency.

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—*
- (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:**

1) (a).  
 Adequate and suitable facilities were provided for children to play indoors and outdoors. The living area of the registered providers home is adequately laid out with a play room providing various equipment and resources suitable to the age stage and development of the children, including building blocks, home area, arts and crafts, construction toys, dolls, dress up and sensory resources.

(b)  
 Suitable rest areas are provided with soft furnishings to ensure children can rest as required throughout the day.

(2) (b).  
 The outdoor area of the registered providers home is large and spacious. There is a designated area for play with sand pits, goal post, wooden playhouse and various toys and resources suitable for outdoor use. The outdoor area’s perimeter consists of fencing and natural hedging. The connection from indoor to outdoor is smooth with direct access from main care room.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

The registered provider has a healthy eating policy in place and all meals will be provided in the service in line with the healthy eating policy. Meal preparation will take place prior to arrival to reduce the time in the kitchen. A sample of meals provided included, snacks of fruit, crackers, and pancakes with a main meal of spaghetti bolognaise, evening snack of fruit and yoghurt. Portable accessible water will be available throughout the day.

### 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 following measures were noted on the day of inspection to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of children and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.

- Provisions were made to prevent adults gaining unauthorised entry to the facility by way of secure entry and exit points.
- Toys and equipment appeared in good condition, appropriate for the proposed age group of children and free from obvious hazards.
- Waste bins were appropriately secured and not accessible to children.
- The premises and play equipment were visibly clean. Cleaning equipment and materials were stored in a cupboard that was secured and not accessible to children.
- Appropriate safety mechanisms were in place for cupboards and doors to prevent access to children.
- Chords and flexes were inaccessible to children.
- The outdoor sand box is covered when not in use.

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) One staff member has up to date training in First Aid responder. Certification was available on the day of inspection, due for renewal in November 2024.

(2) (a) A suitably stocked first aid box was provided in the service and is always available to the preschool children.

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) A new fire alarm and smoke detection system and extinguishers have been installed with an installation date of the 25.07.23.

(a) A template is available for the recording of fire drills.

(b) A record of the available firefighting equipment in the service is recorded in the fire safety folder.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was available. The fire assembly point is located in the car park.

### Part VI – Safety

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## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection.

The insurance submitted is sufficient for 5 children in the childminding service. The insurance has an expiry date of 27.03.2024

The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

### 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:

This requirement is met.

(a) The childminding service is located on the ground floor of the registered provider's home. The home was built in 2021, which on visual observation appears of sound and stable structure. The registered provider confirmed that they were aware of no structural issues with the premises

(b) The Registered provider outlined that the service is safe with a locked entrance door and enclosed perimeter.

(c) **Lighting:** Lighting in the childminding service is provided by means of natural light with three large windows, large bi-folding doors and three openable windows. Natural light is supplemented by the provision of artificial lights. There are additional lights in the sanitary areas.

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|--|--|
|  | <p><b>Heating:</b> The room temperature was adequate on the day of inspection. Heating is by means of an air to water system which is thermostatically controlled. This system has been recently installed in 2021.</p> <p><b>Ventilation:</b> Ventilation is by means of openable windows and doors. In the sanitary accommodation mechanical ventilation is in operation.</p> <p>(d) The premises, toys and equipment are in a good state of repair. The registered provider had prepared cleaning duties and schedules of cleaning to be recorded.</p> <p>(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities are provided in the childminding service. One toilet and one wash hand basins are provided for the children. Sanitary accommodation is located on the ground floor.</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.*

#### Requirement met:

(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children.