

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2023FL003

Name of Service: Charlies Childcare (Donabate)

Address of Service: 17/19 Rahillion Walk, Donabate, Co Dublin K36 P267

Email Address: info@charlieschildcare.ie

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Ronnie Carroll

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

Proposed service type: Proposed to operate a new full day care service.

Proposed Number of Children: Proposed to accommodate 88 pre-school children.

Outcome of the F06 Inspection

- The space available will permit a maximum number of 86 pre-school children to be accommodated in the service as per the findings of Regulation 30.
- To operate from 7.00am to 6.30pm each weekday for 50 weeks each year.
- To cater for children aged 1 to 6

Registered service: Registered Full Day Care Service for 86 Children

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

Inspection Undertaken by: S Taaffe and S Cully

Title: Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airsi Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Full Day Care Service for 86 Children

Date of Registration: 22nd September 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	Charlies Childcare (Donabate) would become the 11 th childcare service owned and operated by the proposed registered provider, all of which are located in north Co Dublin, 10 of which are registered as early years services and 1 stand-alone school aged childcare service. It is proposed that this service would accommodate pre-school children from 1 – 6 years of age attending either on a full day care basis or on a sessional basis whilst availing of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9.00am to 12.00 midday daily. It is currently not proposed to cater for school aged children. The service proposes to provide a play-based curriculum for up to 88 pre-school children at any one time, operating from 7.00am to 6.30pm daily for 50 weeks a year, closing over the Christmas break.
Premises	It is proposed that the new service would be conducted from a recently constructed purpose-built 2-storey premises located on a corner site in a newly developed housing estate. There are 6 care rooms provided in the premises, namely the Wobbler Room, Toddler Room 1 and Toddler Room 2 located on the ground floor, and the Pre-pre-school Room, Pre-school Room 1 and Pre-school Room 2 located on the first floor. A sleep room is located on the ground floor. Ancillary accommodation includes a kitchen and a separate laundry room located on the ground floor and a staff room located on the first floor. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is provided to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider has recruited a service manager to coordinate the day-to-day operational management of the service. It is proposed that, in time, a total of 16 staff members would be employed in the service, if registered and the service operation reaches maximum capacity.
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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider, a company director, the company's group general manager and the proposed person in charge who were present during 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:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

It is proposed that the service manager would be the designated person in charge on a daily basis and that a named person would be appointed 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 has been met.

(1) The proposed registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 and would ensure that an adequate number of adults would at all times work directly with the children in the service.

The company director stated that up to 16 staff members would be employed in the proposed service when operating at maximum capacity and that the minimum adult to child ratios are maintained at all times.

(8)(a) The proposed registered provider would ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times when 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.
- (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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The six care rooms are resourced with a suitable range of play materials and equipment to facilitate children to initiate and sustain meaningful play activities. Interest areas are clearly defined and include well-resourced home corners, shop areas, libraries, construction areas and arts and crafts areas. The play materials are stored at an accessible level to the pre-school children. Ride on toys, an upright water play board with slanted guttering, goal nets and footballs are amongst the play equipment provided to facilitate play activities in the outdoors.

(b) A sleep room containing 5 standard cots is provided on the ground floor. There is evidence available on the premises to show that 6 cocoon-style floor beds with appropriate mattresses have been ordered for the proposed service. The registered provider is aware of national safe sleep best practice guidelines. Twenty-four stackable beds are available for older pre-school children who would require or wish to sleep or rest in the service. A rest area is available in the care rooms with child-sized couches, cushions and matting provided to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the day if required.

(3)(a) The spacious outdoor play area is fully enclosed by the outer walls of the premises and by high boundary walls and fencing. The outdoor play area is observed to be suitable and secure, and no safety hazards are noted. The entire area is surfaced in artificial grass with concrete pathways running along the perimeter of the building.

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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.

The proposed registered provider proposes to provide all snacks and meals for children attending the service. It is proposed that dinners are sourced in bulk from a specialist catering company and stored frozen on the premises, in advance of use. A multi-week menu is available and drinking water would be made available to the children throughout the day, to take when thirsty or desired.

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.

There are no hazards observed by the inspectors that would impact the health, safety or welfare of the children attending the service. It appears that appropriate measures have been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children. Examples of these measures include the premises and outdoor play area being appropriately secured, the provision of thermostatically controlled warm water in the sanitary accommodation and at the sinks in the care rooms, and medication and cleaning agents stored safely out of the reach of children. Keys are available to secure the kitchen and the laundry room when these spaces are not occupied by an adult.

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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) The proposed registered provider is aware of the requirement to ensure that a person with in-date first aid response (FAR) training is at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. There is evidence available in the service to show that three staff members recruited to work in the proposed service hold in-date FAR training certificates.

(2)(a) First aid boxes are suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions on both floors, available at all times for the children if necessary.

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) A template is available which would be used to record fire drills that would take place monthly at the service.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The fire fighting equipment is certified as having been serviced on 19/09/2023 and a certificate for the design, installation and commissioning of the fire detection and alarm system dated 24/07/2023 is available on the premises.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire and evacuation maps are displayed in the care rooms and in the ancillary accommodation.

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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:

The requirement has been met.
An insurance certificate was provided to the Registration Office for 88 pre-school children attending the service on a full day care basis valid from 01/09/23 until 27/03/2024.

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) The premises is a recently constructed purpose-built childcare facility which appears to be in good condition throughout.

(b) The premises appears safe and is found to be appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years service. The front doorbell is linked to intercoms and cameras in each care room and in the main office, allowing staff members to see parents and visitors on their arrival to the service, in order to facilitate their entry if appropriate.

(c)

Lighting:

The premises is adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting. Lighting in all care rooms and the sleep room can be dimmed by remote controls provided in each room.

Heating:

The premises is heated by means of an air to water heat pump. A combination of underfloor heating and low surface temperature radiators are provided on the premises.

The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation are found to be within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection.

The proposed registered provider is aware of the safe sleep ambient temperature range of 16-20°C for children up to their first birthday and 18-22°C if all sleeping

children are aged 1 year or older. A digital thermometer is provided in the sleep room to accurately monitor the ambient temperature.

Ventilation:

Ventilation in the care rooms and adjoining sanitary areas is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents. The internal nappy changing area is fitted with a mechanical ventilation unit.

(d) The premises is in a clean condition and in a good state of repair.

(e) Adequate sanitary accommodation is provided for the number of children proposed to attend. Two toilets and two wash hand basins are provided in each of the sanitary areas adjacent to and directly accessible from Toddler Room 1, Toddler Room 2, Pre-school Room 1 and Pre-school Room 2. One toilet and one wash hand basin are provided in the sanitary area adjacent to and directly accessible from the Pre-pre-school Room.

Two nappy changing mats and two wash hand basins are provided in the nappy changing room on the ground floor. A nappy changing table with mat is available to be set up in the spacious disabled toilet facilities on the ground floor, in the event that more than 22 and up to 33 children attending the proposed service are in nappies.

Two toilets, one of which facilitates disabled access, and two wash hand basins are provided for use by staff members.

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:

- (1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement for a maximum number of 86 pre-school children in the proposed service.
- (2) The minimum space regulatory requirement can be met for 86 pre-school children attending the service. The registered provider and service manager are aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7.
- The clear floor space in the Wobbler Room measured 29.2 square metres. This meets the space requirements for 10 children aged 1-2 years attending this care room on a part-time or on a full day care basis.
 - The clear floor space in the Toddler Room 1 measured 32.22 square metres. This meets the space requirements for 11 children aged 1-2 years or the proposed number of 13 children aged 2-3 years attending this care room on a part-time or on a full day care basis.
 - The clear floor space in the Toddler Room 2 measured 33.5 square metres. This meets the space requirements for the proposed number of 14 children aged 2-3 years attending this care room on a part-time or on a full day care basis.
 - The clear floor space in the Pre-pre-school Room measured 16.46 square metres. This meets the space requirements for the proposed number of 7 children aged 3-6 years attending this care room on a part-time or on a full day care basis or 9 pre-school children aged 2½-6 years attending on a sessional basis.
 - The clear floor space in Pre-school Room 1 measured 36.4 square metres. This meets the space requirements for 15 children aged 3-6 years attending this care room on a part-time or on a full day care basis or 20 pre-school children aged 2½-6 years attending on a sessional basis.
 - The clear floor space in Pre-school Room 2 measured 36.4 square metres. This meets the space requirements for 15 children aged 3-6 years attending this care room on a part-time or on a full day care basis or 20 pre-school children aged 2½-6 years attending on a sessional basis.