

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

**Tusla I.D.:** TU2023GY004

**Name of Service** The Orchard Creche

**Address of Service:** Corofin, Tuam, Co. Galway, H51 XY13

**Email Address:** phyllisreddington@gmail.com

**Name of Registered Provider:** Phyllis Reddington

<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:** Increase the number of children from 132 to 166.  
Increase the number of staff from 24 to 30 adults.  
Additional playroom on the first floor.

**Proposed Number of Children:** 166

**Recommended Change Following Inspection:** Full Day Care service catering for 148 children aged between 1 year and 6 years.  
Sessional Day care for 152 children aged between 2 and 3 years of age

**Registered change:** Change in number of children from 133 to 152(Max 148 Full Day/Part-Time) children  
Change in number of staff from 24 to 30 staff

**Date of Inspection:** 2 2 0 7 2 0 2 5

**Inspection undertaken by:** Fiona Kelly

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, Quality & Regulation  
Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A  
(1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.

**Rationale for Inspection:**  
**Proposed Change of Circumstance**

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-time & Sessional Service for 152(Max 148 Full Day/ Part-Time) Children
Date of Registration	8 <sup>th</sup> August 2025

### 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>	This registered provider proposes to operate a full day care service from 07:30 to 18:00 from Monday to Friday. It proposes to cater for children from 1 to 6 years.
<b>Premises</b>	This service is in a rural area near the village of Corofin in county Galway. The service has three acres of outdoor space located to the side, front and rear of the premises. This service has seven playrooms, a dining room, a designated sleep room, staff room and a kitchen area.
<b>Staffing</b>	The proposed number of staff to work in the service was 30 adults.
<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>

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<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector(s) wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	(1)(a) The requirement has been met. The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.
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### 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.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	(1) The requirement has been met. The register provider shall ensure that there are at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.
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### 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 (2) 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 or

(b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

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<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) On the day of inspection, the playrooms were equipped with toys and equipment taking into account the age profile of the children proposed to attend and the amount of time they propose to spend in the playrooms.</p> <p>(b) There were adequate, and suitable rest facilities available for the proposed number of children that may attend.</p> <p>There was an adequate number of stackable beds and linen available for children over two years of age to rest during the day</p> <p>(3) (a) Children will have access to an outdoor play area daily. The outdoor areas were observed to be suitable, secure and no safety hazards were noted on the day of Inspection.</p> <p>The ECCE playrooms had access to an enclosed area adjoining their playrooms.</p> <p>(b) Facilities for outdoor play were provided on site.</p> <p>(4) The outdoor space was observed to be suitable, secure and safe.</p> <p>(5) Not applicable, as this service is a full day care service.</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 has been met. The registered provider provided evidence in the form of a Healthy Eating Policy that adequate, suitable, nutritious and varied food will be provided by the parents of the children attending the service.</p>
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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 has been met. The registered provider has ensured that all reasonable measures are in place to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children attending the service.

- The front entrance door to the crèche was secured, thus preventing children from exiting the premises unsupervised and prohibiting unauthorised persons from entering the service.
- The outdoor play area in the service was securely fenced.
- Practices in relation to administration of medication were not observed on the day of inspection. The adults demonstrated knowledge of safe practices with regard the procedures.

The playrooms and the sanitary areas and nappy changing areas were clean and well maintained

### 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:

(1) The requirement has been met as staff members had in date paediatric First Aid Course completed.

(2)(a) The registered provider had ensured that the service is equipped with first aid boxes.

(b) The first aid boxes were available to children when required.

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### 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) Arrangements were in place to record fire drills.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and fire alarms in the service was on file. A record of the maintenance of the fire alarms system and the firefighting equipment stated they were checked March 2025.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the hallways

### 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 as adequate insurance has been provided for the number of children proposed to attend the service.

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### 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) On visual assessment, the building appears to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The indoor and outdoor areas appear to be safe and secure.
- (c) Adequate lighting was provided throughout the new proposed playroom and there was ample natural lighting and mechanical ventilation in the playroom.
- (d) The premises and play equipment were clean and well maintained.
- (e) There were adequate and suitable sanitary areas adjacent to the playroom. Liquid soap and paper towels were also available. There was 1 nappy changing area to accommodate 11 children in nappies and 2 children’s toilets and wash hand basins upstairs to accommodate toilet trained children, allocated for the children using the new proposed playroom on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

### 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) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.
- (4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—
  - (a) a sessional pre-school service, and

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*(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).*

*(5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1-5) Adequate floor space is provided for in the new proposed playroom for the free movement of children to play.

The new playroom has 36.887 square metres of clear floor space, which allows for 20 children attending on a sessional basis and allows for 16 children aged between 2-3 years of age attending on a Full Day Care basis.