

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2023KK001
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Name of Service:	Tiddlywinks Too
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Address of Service:	1 Fr. Walsh Close, Cootes Lane, Kilkenny. R95C670.
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Email Address:	tiddlywinkscreche@gmail.com
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Michelle Woodgate
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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:	Full Day Care, part-time, sessional.
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Proposed Number of Children:	33
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Approved. Full Day Care, maximum number of children that can be accommodated =33, 2 to 6 years, Hours of operation: 08:00 to 18:00 hours.
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Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care for 33 children.
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Date of Inspection:	2	3	0	8	2	0	2	3
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Inspection Undertaken by:	Norma Thornton
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Athy Road, Carlow.
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care for 33 children.
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Date of Registration:	25 th August 23
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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	The proposed service is situated in the centre of Kilkenny city, adjacent to two local primary schools. The provider proposes to operate as a full day care service with options for parents to avail of a sessional early childhood care and education (ECCE) and additional part-time service, for children aged 2 to 6 years. This service will be a sister service to Tiddlywinks Crèche, located on the Bennettsrath road on the outskirts of Kilkenny city.
Premises	The proposed service will operate from a bungalow located at the end of a small estate, containing five other bungalows. The building had previously been used as a day centre for older persons. The bungalow has been adapted to provide two classrooms, a designated kitchen, children's toilet facilities, a designated staff toilet, staff room and office area. There is a secured tarmac area at the back of the bungalow which is proposed to be used as the outdoor play area for the service.
Staffing	The provider proposes to have at least four staff members working in the service including the provider. All staff members hold a early childhood care and education qualification.
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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and staff members 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.

Requirement met:	(1)(a) The proposed registered provider will be the designated person in charge daily. A second named person is proposed to deputise as required.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:	(1) The provider proposes that there will be at least four qualified staff members working directly with the early years children. (8)(b)(c) Not applicable as the registered provider intends to have at least two qualified staff members on the premises always.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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—
- (a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time 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:	<p>(1)(a) Two classrooms, junior ECCE and senior ECCE are available for children to play indoors. In both rooms, a variety of play materials and resources were available and accessible on low level shelving. Baskets on higher shelves stored additional play resources that could be alternated to provide variety for the children. Play resources included manipulative and connective toys, jigsaws and peg boards, dolls and small world figurines, tractors, trucks and small vehicles.</p> <p>Appropriate child sized tables and chairs were available, with clearly identified cosy rest areas, home/kitchen play areas, and creativity areas.</p> <p>(2) An outdoor play area was available, which could be directly accessed from the senior ECCE room. This area contained a wooden arbour which was identified as a home / kitchen area. Other areas that were proposed was a child’s bench area where children could sit and relax, a construction area and clear space for children to use the ride on toys provided.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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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 provider demonstrated that facilities were available for cooking a warm meal onsite and had been in contact with the environmental health department. A healthy eating policy was available for the service and a refrigerator was available for children to place any perishable lunch items in.

As part of the healthy eating policy, drinking water stations will be available in each room where children can independently access drinking water throughout the day and a three-week menu plan is provided.

Parents will be informed of the menu plan daily.

Summary Comment:

The requirement is met.

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:

General Safety.

1. The main door to the service was secured with a thumb lock internally and prevented any unauthorised persons from entering the service or any children potentially leaving the service unsupervised. A keypad intercom call system had been installed and could be responded to, from either classroom.
2. All emergency doors in the service were observed to be clearly lit and unobstructed.
3. The provider stated that a risk assessment of the outdoor play area was to be carried out and documented daily, once the area was in use.
4. There was a designated safe and secure storage area for cleaning materials and equipment, which was inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control.

1. Drinking water from the public water supply was readily available and accessible to the children and staff.

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	<p>2. Liquid hand soap and paper hand towelling were observed in the children’s toilets and in the designated staff toilet.</p> <p>3. There were daily cleaning schedules of the service facilities and equipment, available which were signed by staff.</p> <p>Safe Sleep.</p> <p>1.A safe sleep policy was provided in the service specific to children aged 2 to 6 years of age.</p> <p>2.The proposed provider demonstrated to the inspector where children would be facilitated with a quiet area to sleep in, in the junior ECCE room if they required to do so, while in the service. Six stackable child sized beds, clean fitted sheets and soft light blankets were available.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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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:

- (1) On review of staff files and qualifications, it was determined that three staff members in the proposed service held a qualification in the required pre-hospital emergency care paediatric first aid responder training. The registered provider demonstrated from the roster that a qualified FAR staff member would be always available to the children.
- (2)(a) A first aid box was available in a conspicuous and available position on the shelf in the office area just inside the main entrance.
- (b) The proposed provider demonstrated that the first aid box was frequently always checked and available.

Summary Comment:

The requirement is met.

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:

- (1)(a) The proposed provider demonstrated that as part of the service's fire safety policy, monthly fire drills would take place and a documented record of same would be maintained.
- (b) A maintenance record was available for review, recording the regular maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the fire detection alarm system. The last maintenance check was recorded as having taken place on the 17 August 2023.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in several points within the service. A fire assembly point was observed in the outdoor play area at the back of the building.

Summary Comment:

The requirement is met.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance	
<i>A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.</i>	
Requirement met:	Full insurance received for Full Day Care with 33 children. Expiry date 27 March 2024.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises	
<i>A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) of sound and stable structure,</i> <i>(b) safe and secure,</i> <i>(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,</i> <i>(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and</i> <i>(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities</i> 	
Requirement met:	<p>(a) No issues with structural soundness were brought to the attention of the inspector.</p> <p>(b) Access to the service was controlled, families and visitors ring an intercom system at the main door and are greeted in person, by a staff member to gain entry to the premises.</p> <p>(c) The service was naturally lit with several large windows. The natural light available was supplemented by filament lights, each with a protective cover. All the windows could be opened to provide natural ventilation. Heating was provided by a gas heating mains with radiators which could be thermoregulated not to exceed 50°C.</p> <p>(d) There were cleaning schedules and signature records available to document daily routine cleaning schedules.</p> <p>(e) There were four designated children’s toilets, with one long steel hand wash basin, supplied with four thermoregulated taps. The children’s toilet area was ventilated by natural ventilation with an openable window and also with a mechanical ventilation system in operation.</p>

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	A separate designated staff toilet was provided which was ventilated by the mechanical ventilation system.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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
(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).

Requirement met:	<p>(1) There is adequate and clear floor space available in both classrooms, junior and senior ECCE for up to a maximum number of 33 early years children.</p> <p>(2)(3)(4) The junior ECCE classroom measures at 23.6 square metres which provides a minimum of 1.818 square metres for 13 early years children to attend a sessional service, and a minimum of 2.35 square metres for 10 children aged 2 to 3 years of age to attend a part-time / full day care service.</p> <p>The senior ECCE classroom measures at 36.36 square metres which provides a minimum of 1.818 square metres for 20 early years children to attend a sessional service and a minimum of 2.3 square metres for 15 early years children aged 3 to 6 years, to attend a part-time/ full day care service.</p>
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.