

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2023MH006

Name of Service Dolphins Early Education and Childcare Centre

Address of Service: Dun Rioga Close, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath

Email Address: jennifer@dolphinsearlyed.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Jennifer Healy

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

Proposed change:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the numbers of children attending the service from 66 to 85. An additional 19 children will be accommodated in a new care room (Room 5). To increase the number of staff from 11 to 14.
Proposed Number of Children:	85 children
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service to accommodate 85 children. The number of staff to increase from 11 to 14.
Registered change:	Change in Number of Children from 66 to 85 children. Change in Number of Staff from 11 to 14 staff

Date of Inspection:	3	1	1	0	2	0	2	4
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Inspection undertaken by: D. Murray

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla Early Years Inspectorate

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Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road,
Navan, Co. Meath.

Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day & Sessional for 85 children
Date of Registration	01st November 2024

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	<p>Dolphins Early Education & Childcare Centre provide a full day care, sessional service to children from 1 to 6 years. The service operates from 07:30hrs to 18:30hrs each weekday and eligible children participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme. A school aged service is also provided.</p> <p>The registered provider purposes to increase the number of children attending the service from 66 to 85. The additional 19 children ranging in age from 2 years 6 months to 6 years will be accommodated in a new care room (Room 5).</p>
Premises	<p>The service is located in a purpose-built facility and consists of 4 care rooms with a proposed 5th room, a cot room, staff room, laundry room, kitchen, staff and children's sanitary facilities.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider employs a manager, assistant manager 11 childcare staff and a cook. The service is planning to increase the numbers of staff from 11 to 14.</p>

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<p>Methodology</p>	<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>
<p>Acknowledgements</p>	<p>The Inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirements have been met.

(1) The registered provider has ensured that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending Room 5. The registered provider proposes to have 3 childcare staff to work with the 19 additional children aged between to 2 years 6 months and 6 years attending the service on a full day care basis.

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

Requirement met:

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

- Play materials and play equipment in the care room are visible and easily accessible to the children on open shelving at their height which supports children to have choices in selecting materials and equipment to play with. Tables and chairs are appropriate to the age and stage of development of pre-

school children who will attend the care room. The care room is well resourced and has areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials and a range of suitable toys.

(b) The requirement has been met.

- A cosy area consisting of a couch with cushions is available in the care room for children to take a break from activities if needed.
- Stackable beds are available if required.

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

An outdoor space is located to the rear of the premises, which is enclosed by walls and fencing with 2 secure side gates. The surface area consists of an artificial grass surface, cement and tarmacadam. Partially sheltered areas are available off Rooms 1, 2, 3 and 5 which permits outdoor play in all types of weather. Equipment includes sand pit with play equipment, children's table and chairs, 2 adult benches, tyres containing sand and wood pieces, balancing plank, climbing frame, mud kitchen with play equipment, scooters, toy car, bug hotel, construction table and a small partially sheltered cosy area with books and cushions.

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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.

Requirement met:

All meals and snacks are provided and prepared onsite. The service has a 3-week menu plan with a variety of dishes ranging from meat, chicken, fish and a vegetarian option. A constant supply of water was also available and accessible to the children.

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.

- On the day of inspection both the indoor and outdoor environment appeared safe. Risk assessments are conducted on a daily basis. The registered provider and staff members have a clear understanding of their role and range of responsibilities to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the children.

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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) The service provided evidence that a person had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises

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:

- (1)(a) The requirement has been met.
- (1)(a) A template is available to record fire drills that take place in the service.
- (b) A record was maintained of the firefighting equipment on the premises. The firefighting equipment was last serviced in October 2023. The mains powered smoke alarm was last serviced on 16/09/2024.

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4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the care room.

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.

The service has adequate insurance for 85 children from the 30/09/24 to the 27/03/25.

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) From observation the walls, flooring, doors, and windows appeared to be suitably maintained with no visual safety issues or concerns identified.

(b) The main door to the service is secured with a buzzer system and the outdoor space is enclosed with walls and a secure side gate.

(c) Windows provide natural lighting to the care room. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required.

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	<p>Heating is provided through gas heating. The temperature of the room is maintained between 18°C to 22°C.</p> <p>Natural ventilation is provided by opened doors and windows.</p> <p>Mechanical ventilation is available in the sanitary area.</p> <p>(d) The room is clean with cleaning schedules available to ensure regular cleaning is documented.</p> <p>(e) The sanitary facilities consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two children’s toilet closet with 2 children’s sink. Two nappy changing areas are available in the building. • Two staff toilet closets with 2 sinks.
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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There is adequate clear floor space available in the service for the work, play and movement of the 85 children.

The proposed Room 5 has a clear floor space of 49.14 m².

This provides sufficient space for the proposed 19 children between the ages of 2 years 6 months to 6 years availing of the full day care service.