

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service



**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 Proposed Registered Provider:** Jennifer Healy

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

**Proposed service type:** Full Day / Part Time / Sessional Service

**Proposed Number of Children:** 66

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection:** Full Day / Part Time / Sessional Service for 66 children, aged 1 to 6 years  
07:30 - 18:30

**Registered service:** Registered Full Day Care/Part Time/Sessional Service for 66 Children

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

**Inspection Undertaken by:** D. Murray

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan  
Co Meath

**Rationale for Inspection**  
Proposed New Service

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Full Day Care/Part Time/Sessional Service for 66 Children

**Date of Registration:** 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

### 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 proposed new service intends to provide full day care, part-time, sessional service to children aged from 1 to 6 years. It is proposed that the service will operate from 07:30hrs to 18:30hrs each weekday catering for a maximum of 66 children. The service proposes to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme. A school aged service will also be provided.
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The service is purpose built consisting of the following rooms. The registered provider is purposing the following:</p> <p><b>Room 1</b> will provide care and education to children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years attending the service on a sessional, part-time basis from 08:00am to 13:00pm. This room will cater for school aged children in the afternoon.</p> <p><b>Room 2</b> will cater for children from 2 to 3 years attending the service on a part time, full day care basis.</p> <p><b>Room 3</b> will facilitate the care of children from 1 to 2 years attending the service on a full day care basis.</p> <p><b>Room 4</b> will provide care and education to children from 2 years 8 months to 6 years attending the service on a sessional, part-time, full day care basis.</p> <p>Other rooms in the service also include a cot room, staff room, laundry room, kitchen and staff and children’s sanitary facilities.</p> <p>An outdoor area is located to the rear of the premises.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	A service manager has been appointed to manage the service and will be the person in charge of operating the service. A total of 10 staff members have been recruited to work in the service.
<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 two 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>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The Inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

### 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.

A manager has been appointed and will be the designated person in charge of operating the service, a named person to deputise has also been appointed.

### 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:

(1) The requirement has been met. A manager has been appointed along with 10 staff members to work directly with the children attending the service.

### 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:

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

The care rooms have low shelving units available for the storage of toys and equipment for the children. Areas of interest are well developed with supporting equipment which incorporates natural and sensorial materials, art and crafts and a range of suitable toys.

(b) The requirement has been met.

A cot room with 8 standard cots is available for the younger age group requiring sleep. Stackable beds are placed in Room 2 for the older children requiring sleep. Cosy

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

areas consisting of mats and cushions are available in all care rooms for children to take a break from activities and rest if needed.

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

An outdoor space is located to the rear of the premises, which is enclosed with walls, fencing with 2 secure side gates. The surface area consists of an artificial grass surface, cement and tarmacadam. Equipment includes a kitchen, activity tray, goal posts, slides, ride on toys, enclosed boxes with additional play equipment and 2 wooden benches.

### 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.

A healthy eating policy is available for the service. The service provides all meals and snacks which are 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 will also be 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.

- The service is secure, as the main entrance door is operated by a buzzer system and the outdoor area is secure by walls, fencing and 2 secure gates. These safety measures prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and unauthorised access to the service.
- The play materials and equipment in the service are stored on stable- low level-based shelving units. The play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the proposed pre-school children.
- The kitchen is located off the main reception area and the kitchen door will remain closed during the hours of operation.
- All emergency doors were found to be clear and unobstructed.
- All cleaning equipment were stored out of reach of children.
- Appropriate shatter proof coverings are provided on all ceiling lights in the service.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

- Pedal bins are provided in all care room and sanitary facilities throughout the service. A daily and a weekly cleaning schedule is available to ensure adequate cleaning of the service.
- A risk assessment both indoors and outdoors will be conducted on a daily basis.
- Thermometers are available in the cot room and Room 2 to record the air temperature while children are sleeping. The mattresses on the cots in the cot room all have safety labels with 50cm between each cot. A sleep log is available to record 10-minute sleep checks on all sleeping children.

### 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) An adequate number of staff are available with up to date First Aid Responders course.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position throughout the service and is available at all times.

### 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 to record fire drills that take place in the service.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment which was last serviced on the 08/09/2023. The smoke detection system was serviced on the 15/08/2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed on the premises. The fire assembly point is located to the front of the service.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

Full insurance was provided to the Registration Office valid from 02.10.23 to 27.03.24 covering 66 children on a Full Day Care Basis.

### 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 appear to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) The service is secure, as the main entrance door is operated by a buzzer system and the outdoor area is secure by walls, fencing and 2 gates.

(c)

- The care room and the sanitary facilities in the service have a number of windows which provides these areas with natural light and wall vents for ventilation. A mechanical ventilation system is in place in the sanitary area.
- The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required.
- The heating system in the service is regulated by gas wall mounted radiators which are positioned high on the walls in the care rooms, cot room and sanitary areas. The temperature of the care rooms and cot room range between 18.0°C to 19.8°C on the day of inspection.

(d) The service is clean with all maintenance work completed.

(e) The following sanitary facilities are available:

- One staff /disability accessible sanitary closet is located off the main hallway.
- In total the service has 6 children’s toilets with partitions and doors and 8 sinks.
- Room 2 has 1 nappy changing mat along with Room 3 which also has 1 nappy changing mat.
- Warm water not exceeding 43°C, liquid soap and hand paper towel is provided for hand washing.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

### 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)
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space was available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(2) Based on the measurements of the care room the registered provider ensured that the minimum amount of clear floor space is available for each child proposing to attend the service on a part- time basis.

(3) The registered provider ensured that a minimum space of 1.81 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service on a sessional basis.

(4) (a)&(b)

#### Room 1:

Free floor space available is 35.07square meters. This provides sufficient space for the proposed:

19 children between the ages of 2.8 years to 6 years attending the service on a sessional basis.

15 children between the ages of 2.8 years to 6 years attending the service on a part-time /full day care basis.

#### Room 2:

Free floor space available is 31.02 square meters. This provides sufficient space for the proposed:

13 children between the age of 2 to 3 years attending the service on a part-time /full day care basis.

#### Room 3:

Free floor space available is 29.48 square meters. This provides sufficient space for the proposed:

10 children between the ages of 1 to 2 years attending the service on a full day care basis.

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

### Room 4:

Free floor space available is 53.18 square meters. This provides sufficient space for the proposed:

24 children availing of the sessional service.

23 children availing of the part-time /full day care service.