

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2023SO001
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Sandcastles Quigabar
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Parke, Enniscrone, Sligo F26 D710
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<b>Email Address:</b>	quigabar@sandcastles-childcare.com
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<b>Name of Proposed Registered Provider:</b>	Justina Reape
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<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input 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"/>

<b>Proposed service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	22
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<b>Outcome of the F06 Inspection</b>	Sessional Service for 22 Children aged 3 – 6 years, operating 09:30 – 12:30
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<b>Registered service:</b>	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	1	0	8	2	0	2	3
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<b>Inspection Undertaken by:</b>	Lorraine Costello
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Early Years Service Markievicz House Barrack Street Sligo F91XC84
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### Rationale for Inspection

### Proposed New Service

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
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<b>Date of Registration:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> August 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	The applicant in proposing to operate a sessional service to cater for a maximum of 22 children aged 3-6 years. It is proposed that there will be one large care room in operation.
<b>Premises</b>	The premises is located outside the town of Enniscrone. The service will operate from a newly built community GAA hall. The service will consist of one large playroom, a kitchen and sanitary accommodation for the children and staff. Access to the football pitch and Astro turf will be available during times of operation.
<b>Staffing</b>	It is proposed that there will be two staff members working directly with the children.
<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 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>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The Inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and person in charge 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1), (a).

There is a designated person in charge. The registered provider informed the inspector that recruitment is taking place and there will be a deputy assigned to the service.

### 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 requirement has been met.

(1) It is proposed that a minimum of two staff members will be employed to work directly with the preschool children. The allocation of staff to children outlined by the registered provider is accepted as meeting the required adult child ratios.

### 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:**

The requirement has been met.

(1), (a). The preschool room was a bright welcoming and spacious environment with a range of appropriate learning materials for children. The room was laid out to provide various interest areas for the children to explore and all interest areas were well resourced. Interest areas included, art and crafts area, library and reading corner, home and kitchen area, dress up area, construction area, sensory play, a doll and baby care area.

Open low-level shelving was used to provide easy access to play resources and suitable sized tables and chairs were provided for tabletop activities.

The various play materials and equipment provide opportunities for all types of play experiences including play that promotes children’s cognitive and fine motor development, creative and messy play, role and imaginary play. There is ample space between each area to allow for free movement of children and facilities available for individual or group play.

(1),(b).

The service has provided adequate rest areas for children to take a break or opt out of activities if they choose. This area consists of a cozy corner with soft furnishings, floor mat and bean bags. The addition of a recently purchased couch will add to this rest area.

(2)(a)

The outdoor play area is a community GAA pitch that the service has full access to for the hours of operation. The registered provider has assured that a risk assessment will be completed each morning to ensure the safety of the area before use. The outdoor area is secure by a wall and gate. Materials and resources for outside play will be stored and brought out for daily use. These will include a variety of resources for balance coordination and agility including bikes and trikes, hula hoops, footballs, scooters.

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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:

It is proposed that all lunches and snacks will be provided from home. The service has a healthy eating policy in place for parents. Clean and safe drinking water will be always available and accessible to children.

This requirement has been 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:

This requirement has been met.

The following measures were noted on the day of inspection to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children and to ensure that the environment of the service was safe.

- Appropriate measures were in place to ensure that children could not exit the premises unsupervised, or adults could not enter without permission. The main entrance door to the service was secured with a keypad lock entry system. An emergency exit door was operated by a magnetic closure system which allowed for quick release if exit via this route was deemed necessary.
- The hot water supply at children’s wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled to not exceed the maximum safe limit of 43°C. Sanitary areas were provided with appropriate hand washing facilities with paper towels, liquid soap and foot operated bins.
- Main waste storage bins were in a secure area away from the children’s play areas. Foot pedal operated bins are available within the room.
- Cleaning equipment and products were stored away from children’s access. Cleaning duties and records were in place and ready for use.

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- All exit routes within the service were free from obstruction.
- Toys and play resources were noted to be clean, in good repair and appropriate for children's use.
- A fridge for storing children's snacks which contain perishable items is available in the kitchen adjacent to the playroom.

### 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) Evidence of one staff member first aid certificate that is employed to work directly with the preschool children was reviewed by the inspector and were observed to have an expiry date of 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2025.

(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is provided in the service. The first aid box is clearly identifiable and easily accessible in the playroom and is always accessible to children.

This requirement has been 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 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

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	<p>Provisions were in place for documenting fire drills carried out once the service commences.</p> <p>(1)(b)</p> <p>A record of the number and type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarm systems to be used in the service were furnished to the inspector. This included Foam and Co2 fire extinguishers and a fire blanket.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>Notices of the evacuation procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the room. Assembly point was clearly signposted and located adjacent to the football pitch.</p>
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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:

Full insurance was provided to the Registration Office covering a maximum of 22 children on a sessional basis, valid from 28/08/23 until 27/08/224.

### 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 consists of a newly built two story community GAA hall. The pre-school service is to occupy the first floor of the building. On superficial visual inspection, the building appeared of sound structure with no visible defects. The registered providers confirmed that they have no concerns over the stability or structure of the building.

(b)

The service was adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry. There is a separate entrance door into the building for the Pre-school which is secured with a keypad entry system and a magnetic release system. The release mechanism is set at a level above children's reach.

(c)

**Lighting.**

Adequate natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting was provided in the pre-school room. The playroom contained three large glass windows along one wall that cannot be opened. The other three walls consisted of five windows that can open with restrictors in place. These windows provide natural light to all areas of the playroom. Frosted glass windows were provided in the sanitary accommodation. Artificial lighting consists of fluorescent ceiling lights in the playroom, hallway, stairs and circular dome ceiling lights in the sanitary accommodation. Lights were fully encased in protective covers.

**Heating.**

The playroom and sanitary accommodation are provided with radiators which are connected to the air to water heating system for the whole community building. The air temperature of the area when checked at inspection was within the recommended range of 18 – 22°C.

**Ventilation.**

Natural ventilation was provided by five openable windows in the playroom. The sanitary accommodation for children and adults contained openable windows in each toilet cubicle and in the lobby areas.

(d)

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The premises was newly built and appeared to be in a good state of repair. The building was clean on the day of inspection. The building is connected to a mains water supply providing appropriate drinking water for staff and children and running water for cleaning. The service has a contract in place for pest control.

(e)

The premises was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. Three toilets and two wash hand basins are provided for children off the playroom. Each toilet cubicle is sufficiently enclosed to ensure adequate privacy. A separate staff toilet is provided with a wash hand basin.

### 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.*

*(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.*

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children.

(3) The size of the proposed preschool room measured at 141m<sup>2</sup> on the day of inspection, ensured that the required floor space for a maximum number of 22 preschool children in the proposed age range attending on a sessional basis has been met.