

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2023TY005
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Name of Service:	Kids Cahir Pre-School
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Address of Service:	Townspark, Cahir, Co. Tipperary
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Email Address:	helenawall.hom@gmail.com
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Helena O'Meara
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type:	Sessional
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Proposed Number of Children:	22
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Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Proposed Number of Children: 22 Service Type: Sessional Age Profile: 2-6 years Hours of Operation: 9.30am – 12.30pm
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Registered service:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 children.
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Date of Inspection:	0	2	0	8	2	0	2	3
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Inspection Undertaken by:	L McGeeney
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Civic Offices, Limerick Road
	Nenagh, Co. Tipperary

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 children.
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Date of Registration:	25 th 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).

Description of Service	<p>This proposed service will provide care and education to children aged 2 – 6 years old on a sessional basis. The service already operates a registered school aged care service in the same premises: Cahir Breakfast Club and After School Service.</p> <p>It is proposed that the service will cater for up to 22 children at any one time, Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 12.30pm for 38 weeks of the year.</p>
Premises	<p>The proposed service will operate from a former primary school building located in the town of Cahir in south Tipperary. The single storey detached premises comprises of an office, kitchen, sanitary accommodation areas and five activity rooms. There were extensive grounds that were available for outdoor play.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider will not work in the service but will have overall oversight of this service and several other registered school aged services. The service manager will be the person in charge on a daily basis. There will be a minimum of two staff working directly with the children with additional staff employed as required.</p>
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</p>

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	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.
Acknowledgement	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and person in charge who were present on the day of the inspection.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service manager will be the person in charge on a daily basis and there was a person who could deputise in her absence. The registered provider will also be available to call on if required.

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)—

(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) It is proposed that there will be between 2 and 4 staff working directly with up to 22 children for each session.

(8)(c) It is proposed that there will be at least 2 staff present at all times while the service is in operation.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) It is proposed that the children will have daily access to three of the activity rooms: Big Top room, Candy room and Sensory room. The other two activity rooms will be primarily for use by school aged children but may be used by the early years children occasionally. In particular the Garden room, which may be used as a breakout room when needed.

Each room was set up for a variety of activities and experiences suitable to the age and stage of development of the children who will use the rooms. For example, the Garden room had a reinforced metal structure installed in it which was suitable for suspending swings or climbing equipment.

The children will have access to the school grounds for outdoor play.

(b) Sleep facilities will not be required as all of the children will be aged over 2 years old and will attend on a sessional basis. There were rest facilities in each room where the children could relax and rest away from general activities.

In the Sensory room there was a carpeted floor, beanbags and large floor cushions.

The other activity rooms had cosy corners with soft seating.

(2)(a) The school was sited on extensive grounds which included grass, concrete and tarmac surfaces. The school grounds will be used as the outdoor play area for the service. There was a covered shelter that was open on one side and had bench seating which provided a space for the children to play outdoors in all weathers.

	<p>The outdoor space was enclosed by fencing and walls. There was a locked gate in the fence at the back which linked to the grounds of the new primary school. The school children will have access to the grounds at set times each day, when the early years children are not using the space.</p> <p>There was no gate in the wall at the entrance to the site. It was proposed that the children would play at the back of the premises and not at the front near the entrance gate and access to the road. It is proposed that the children will be supervised while playing outdoors to ensure they do not gain access to any roads or unsafe areas.</p>
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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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>It is proposed that the children will bring a packed lunch with them each day. There is a fridge in the Big Top room and in the kitchen where perishable foods can be stored. The service will have additional food available if needed by a child who is hungry. There is drinkable water available in the premises.</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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>General Safety:</p> <p>The entrance door for the service was at the front of the premises, with glass panels in the top of the door and side panels. This door will be kept secured and entry to the service will be managed by staff.</p> <p>Hot water was heated by electric water heaters and thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C.</p> <p>Infection Control:</p> <p>The service had an infection control policy. There were sinks in the sanitary accommodation area where children could wash their hands at appropriate times during the day such as before eating and after using the toilet.</p>
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Fire Safety:

The fire escape routes were kept clear of obstruction.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider and service manager hold current certification in first aid response (FAR).

(2)(a) There was a first aid cabinet in the corridor outside the games room, where it was easy to access when required.

(b) The supplies in the first aid cabinet were available if required by a child attending the service.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There was a fire register for recording fire drills.

(b) There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms. The firefighting equipment was serviced in March 2023. Smoke alarms were serviced twice a year.

(4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed on the walls in the service.

Part VI - Safety

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Regulation 28 – Insurance	
<i>A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.</i>	
Requirement met:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>The registered provider has insurance cover for a Sessional Service for 24 early years children valid until 27 March 2024.</p>

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"> (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:	<p>This requirement has been met.</p> <p>(a) The premises was constructed of concrete blocks and plaster.</p> <p>(b) The service was safe and secure. There were two access doors: the main entrance and a fire escape door along the corridor. Both doors will be kept secure while the service is in operation to prevent unauthorised access to the premises and to prevent a child from exiting the premises unsupervised.</p> <p>(c) Each of the rooms, including sanitary accommodation areas, were naturally lit through windows, supplemented by artificial light when required. The rooms had high ceilings and openable windows which ensured good ventilation. The service was heated by wall mounted electric heaters in each room. The heaters were designed so that their surface temperature did not get hot to touch.</p> <p>(d) The service was clean and well maintained. There was a cleaning schedule for the premises, toys, materials, fixtures and fittings.</p> <p>(e) There were two sanitary accommodation areas in the service, one area for children with five toilets and two wash hand basins, and one for staff with one toilet</p>

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and one wash hand basin. There was sufficient provision for the proposed number of children and staff that the service will cater for.

The registered provider stated that nappy changing facilities would be provided if required.

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) There were five activity rooms in the service. The main room to be used by the early years children was Big Top room which measured 6.5m x 12.78m = 83m² . All of the available space was clear floor space. There was sufficient room for all of the children proposed to be catered for in the service.

The children will also have daily access to the Sensory room. The other rooms will be available to the children and used when required. For example, the Garden room will be used on days when the weather makes outdoor play unpleasant.

The measurements of the other rooms were:

Candy room: 6.5m x 6.3m = 41m²

Garden room: 6.5m x 6.3m – 41m²

Games room: 4.9m x 4.2m = 20.58m²

(3) The space requirements for 22 children attending on a sessional basis are 40m². There was sufficient space in the Big Top room for 22 children attending on a sessional basis.