

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2023WD003

Name of Service: Play Together Childcare

Address of Service: Unit 7 Block A, Mount Suir, Manor, Gracedieu, Waterford

Email Address: Play2gether2005@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Rebekah Donnelly

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: 2nd room for use to provide the early childhood care and education scheme and full day care.

Proposed Number of Children: 22 additional children aged 2.8 to 5 on a sessional basis of which 16 children could attend on a full day care basis

Recommended Change Following Inspection: 44 children on a sessional basis of which 32 children may be attending on a full day care basis.

Registered change: Change in number of children from 22 sessional (16 full day care basis) to 44 children (32 full day care basis).

Date of Inspection: 1 6 0 9 2 0 2 4

Inspection undertaken by: M. Ryan

Title: Early Years Inspector.

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Community Care, Cork Road Waterford

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care and Sessional Service for 44 children (32 full day care basis).
Date of Registration	20 th September 2024.

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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	Play Together Childcare is a private full day care preschool service on the outskirts of Waterford city, that opened in September 2023. The service operates from 08:00hrs to 17:30hrs daily for children aged 2yrs 8mths to 6yrs. The service has one room allocated for pre-school children on the ground floor unit of a retail and apartment complex. Play Together Childcare proposes to open a second room on the premises for the purpose of operating a sessional ECCE in the mornings.
Premises	The building has a catering kitchen, an office and toilets for adults and children. The service has use of a designated grassed area enclosed by the surrounding apartments that is used for the children’s outdoor play opportunities.
Staffing	The registered provider has employed two extra staff to work directly with the children in the new pre-school room.
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 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>
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children 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 registered provider has employed a person as the designated person in charge with an additional two staff members allocated for the new to the preschool room.

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 manager is the designated person in charge in the service and was familiar with the Child Care Act 1991 (early years services) Regulations 2016, Schedule 6 Staff: Child ratios to ensure that there are adequate numbers of staff working 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

(2) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises 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 new room proposed to use for a pre-school sessional service use by the early years children was bright, spacious and well laid out. There was good quality timber play furniture arranged in the room so as to allow for well-defined areas of interest. divided

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by child accessible shelving. This room has stocks of open-ended play materials such as timber blocks and plastic play materials. There was ample space in each area for children to play, explore and work. This room has stocks of open-ended play materials such as blocks, plastic pipes, magnetic squares, and moon sand available in small trays.

(1)(b)

The room had a quiet corner available for rest with mats and cushions. There were stackable beds available, and use of a rest area located in the annex off the other pre-school room.

(2)(a)

There was an outdoor play space to the rear of the building that consisted of a large, grassed area. Since the last inspection easier and safer access to this outdoor area had been developed via an internal stairwell and easier more direct route to the green area. During this time an extensive timber activity frame was erected with shelter and slides /swings, climbing walls and climbing ladders.

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:

There is a healthy eating policy available for the service. Parents will provide food for breakfast and mid- morning snack. There is a full catering kitchen in the building for the service therefore fridges are available for the storage of food and snacks brought in from home.

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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)
 Certification was available which confirmed that two staff proposed to work in the room were First Aid Responder trained.
- (2)(a)(b)
 A first aid box was located out of children’s reach in the kitchen.

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) A record in writing of fire drills indicated that the last fire drill took place on the premises on the 13 August 2024.
 (b) Firefighting equipment available on the premises was serviced on 12 June 2024. The smoke alarm system was last serviced on 25 April 2024.

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	(4) A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a was on the notice board in the main hall and a plan for this was available in each childcare room
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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: An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that insurance was in place.

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:

- (a)
The service is located in a recently renovated unit on the ground floor of an apartment and retail block. The building was wheelchair accessible. The service was serviced by the public waste disposal system. The water source was from a public supply.
- (b)
The entrance door was secured with a keypad locking system. A green area used for outdoor play and was totally enclosed by the apartments. All access points to this area had timber gates with bolt locks.
- (c)
The room was well lit by natural light. There were three openable windows to allow for natural ventilation. The care room had 11 strip fluorescent lights with protective covering. The building is heated by city gas.

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	<p>(d)</p> <p>The room, fixtures and fittings appeared to be clean, well maintained and in a good state of repair. There were cleaning schedules in place for the service. Some of the internal walls on the premises had been recently painted.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>The preschool room had two toilet cubicles and two wash hand basins, located within the room for the children. There was a separate staff toilet and wash hand basin assigned for staff use within the premises. This was sufficient accommodation for the children attending the service and the staff members. It is intended that children who attend the service are toilet trained or almost toilet trained when they start in the service, however nappy changing will be carried out if required. A nappy changing table was located in the wheelchair accessible toilet. Therefore, there are adequate and suitable sanitary facilities for this proposed change in circumstances.</p>
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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.*

(2) *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:	Room Name	Age Range	Type of Service	Floor Space Available	Number of Children space can now accommodate
	Pre-school room seeking registration	2.8- 5years	sessional	57.84m ²	This room will accommodate a total of 22 children 2.8-5 years of age on a sessional basis. 16 children from 2-5 years of age on a FDC basis.

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(2)

There was adequate clear floor space available in this care room to accommodate 22 children from 2.8 to 5 years of age on a sessional care basis, and 16 children from 2-5 years of age on a FDC basis. Therefore, there was adequate clear floor space for this proposed change in circumstances.