

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2023WD003

Name of Service: Play Together Childcare

Address of Service: Unit 7, Block A, Mount Suir Manor, Gracedieu, Waterford, X91YC53

Email Address: play2gether2005@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Rebekah Donnelly

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

Proposed service type: Full day care, part time and sessional

Proposed Number of Children: 22 sessional/ 16 full day care children

Outcome of the F06 Inspection: 8am-5.30pm Monday to Friday
51 weeks per year
2 years and 8 months to 6 years

Registered service: Registered Full Day Care / Part Time / Sessional Service for 22 Children (Max 16 Full Day Care)

Date of Inspection:	2	9	0	8	2	0	2	3
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Inspection Undertaken by: C. Ryan

Title: EYI

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford

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 22 Children (Max 16 Full Day Care)

Date of Registration: 4th September 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	This new privately owned service proposes to operate a full day care, part time and sessional early years care and education scheme (ECCE) to children aged from 2 years and 8 months to 6 years of age. The service proposes to open from 8am to 5:30pm daily, Monday to Friday for 51 weeks per year. The registered provider proposes to operate the ECCE hours from 9am to 12pm.
Premises	The service is located in a recently renovated unit on the ground floor of an apartment and retail block. The service consists of an entrance hall, an office, a kitchen, four playrooms for use by children, children’s sanitary accommodation, a staff toilet and a large outdoor area for the exclusive use of the children attending the service. The registered provider proposes to use one room for early years children attending the service. A second room will be designated for use by school aged children, with the two remaining rooms currently not opened. The registered provider will submit a change in circumstance form as the numbers of children increase to use the closed room.
Staffing	The registered provider has employed a person as the designated person in charge with an additional two staff members allocated to the early years room. The registered provider proposes that all staff working directly with the early years children will hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at the minimum Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.
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 staff 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:

The requirement of the regulation is met:

The registered provider has employed a person as the designated person in charge. There is a named deputy allocated for the hours of operation.

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 of the regulation is met:

(1) The registered provider is familiar with the Child Care Act 1991 (early years services) Regulations 2016, Schedule 6 Staff: Child ratios and will 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*
 - (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 room designated for use by the early years children is bright, spacious and well laid out. The room will be called the preschool room. Child sized furniture and equipment are available, and the registered provider is developing interest areas with ample space in each area for children to play, explore and work. Interest areas included: a cosy library area, kitchen area, and arts and craft areas.

(1)(b)
 Provisions are in place for children to rest and or sleep while attending the service. The rest area is a located in an annex within the early years room. The room will be used for rest, sleep and quieter activities such as reading. The room is carpeted and has a cushions and a reading area at one end. There was one stackable sleep bed available.

(2)(a)
 The children have access to an outdoor play space to the rear of the building and consists of a large grass area. The registered provider has a variety of toys, equipment and materials available to the children in the outdoor area and has further plans to develop the area.

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Requirement not met:	(1)(b) There were not sufficient sleep beds available to meet the number of the proposed children who will attend.
Response from Provider:	The registered provider submitted the following response: Additional sleep beds are now available for the children. Photograph of extra beds submitted.
Summary Comment:	The requirement of the regulation is met.

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 requirements of the regulation are met. Parents will provide food for breakfast, mid- morning break and afternoon snacks. Fridges are available for the storage of food and snacks brought in from home. The service will provide the main hot meal for children attending as part time or full day care.
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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>Infection control:</p> <p>The service has an infection prevention and control policy in place. Liquid soap and paper hand towels were available. Cleaning schedules were in place and the early years room was clean and well maintained.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>Infection control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There was no warm water to support effective handwashing. <p>General Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Two concrete stair wells in the outdoor area were not secured to restrict access and posed a risk to children in the event of a fall. 3. The outdoor play area was located away from the service, within the grounds of the building block. There was no risk assessment or outdoor policy for the management of children transitioning to the outdoor area.
Response from Provider:	<p>The registered provider submitted the following response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The heating technician will connect the heating on Monday. An electrician is coming to fit a thermostat to control the water temperature. 2. The stairwells have been secured temporarily while gates are ordered by the builder. 3. A risk assessment policy and outdoor play policy submitted.
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement of the regulation is met.</p>

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) There are staff currently trained in first aid for children and will be present on the premises at all times.

(2)(a)(b)
 A suitable and fully equipped first aid box was available on the premises and stored in an is easily accessible in the room.

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:

(1)(a)
 Records were available on the premises for recording of fire drills and the registered provider was advised of the requirement to carry out monthly fire drills.

(b)
 Firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were present, and the registered provider has contracts in place for the regular service and maintenance of same.

Requirement not met:

(4)
 A fire assembly point had not been identified for the early years service.

Response from Provider:

The registered provider submitted the following response:

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	The chief fire officer visited the premises. A fire assembly point was identified. The fire evacuation plans have been amended to identify the locations. New signage has been order. Photograph of the fire assembly point submitted.
Summary Comment:	The requirement of the regulation has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement of the regulation is met.

Full insurance was submitted to the Registration Office, valid from 04/09/23 until 27/03/24 covering 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:

(a)

The service is located in a recently renovated unit on the ground floor of an apartment and retail block. The registered provider confirmed that they were not aware of any structural defects.

(c)

The room was well lit by natural light. The windows were openable to allow for natural ventilation. Lighting was supplemented by artificial light.

(d)

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	<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.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>The early years 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.</p>
<p>Requirement not met:</p>	<p>(b)</p> <p>The entrance door was not secured as the door would not fully close. The internal door within the entrance lobby was secured.</p> <p>(c)</p> <p>The building is heated by a gas heating system. The heating was not connected on fit for purpose.</p>
<p>Response from Provider:</p>	<p>The registered provider submitted the following response:</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>The front door will be fixed next week.</p> <p>(c)</p> <p>A heating technician is connecting the heating on Monday.</p>
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>The requirement of the regulation is met.</p>

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 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.*

Requirement met:

- (1)
 The room measured 49m² which is adequate space for the proposed 22 children aged 2 to 6 years currently attending the service on a sessional basis and 16 children aged 2 to 6 years attending on a part time or full day care basis.
- (2) The room was spacious and bright with ample clear floor space for the number of children who will attend the service.