

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2024DY002
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	The Happy Castle Creche
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Scoil Ui Chonail GAA club, 95 Clontarf Road, Dublin 3, D03 F862
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<b>Email Address:</b>	castlecreche@outlook.ie
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<b>Name of Proposed Registered Provider:</b>	Rachel Doherty
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<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" 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>	Full Day Care and Sessional
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<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	22
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<b>Outcome of the F06 Inspection:</b>	18 FDC 22 sessional
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<b>Registered service:</b>	Registered Full Day Care / Sessional Service for 22 Children (Max 18 Full Day Care)
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	2	5	0	4	2	0	2	4
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<b>Inspection Undertaken by:</b>	E. Finnegan Hayes
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
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<b>Rationale for Inspection</b>
<b>Proposed New Service</b>

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care / Sessional Service for 22 Children (Max 18 Full Day Care)
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<b>Date of Registration:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	The proposed service is a full day care service catering for children aged 2-6 years. The proposed service will operate from 8am to 5:45pm Monday to Friday for full day care. The service will also operate the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9am-12pm.
<b>Premises</b>	The proposed service will be located in a ground floor room of a GAA club with direct access to the outdoor area. The registered provider also provides a school aged service in an upstairs room at this location.
<b>Staffing</b>	The proposed service will be staffed by three early years practitioners and the registered provider will provide cover when needed.
<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 wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider who was 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:

(1) (a) The proposed service has a designated person who will be in charge and a named person who can deputise as 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.

#### Requirement met:

(1) The registered provider proposes to have three staff working directly with the children in the service. The registered provider will be available to cover in the service as needed.

### 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 care room is large and bright with adequate facilities for the children to play indoors. The following was observed:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An adequate number of low-level tables and chairs were available to allow children to engage in tabletop activities and eat meals.</li> <li>Toys and equipment were accessible to the children on low shelving.</li> <li>The room was adequately equipped with a range of toys and materials suitable to the age and stage of development of the children. The Toys and equipment were arranged in defined areas and included a fully equipped home corner, a small world area with playhouses and associated materials, a range of montessori equipment and a selection of books.</li> </ul> <p>(b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cosy area consisted of two large beanbags which provided a comfortable place for the children to rest or to take a break from activities during the day.</li> </ul> <p>(2)(a) A secure outdoor area is available to the rear of the building accessible from the care room. A storage shed is available to store toys and equipment when not in use.</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:

- The proposed service has a healthy eating policy in place which is accessible to parents in the entrance area of the service.
- The proposed service will supply snacks and a hot meal to the children each day with lunch being brought from home. A refrigerator is available in the service for refrigeration of lunches brought from home.
- Hot meals will be delivered to the service daily from a local resource centre which provides food to the registered provider's other service. A mechanism for temperature checking the food on arrival to the service is in place.
- Water will be available 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 registered provider has put the following measures in place to ensure the safety of the children;

- The service has the sole use of the GAA club during the opening hours. The entrance is secured with a key lock to prevent unauthorised persons accessing the building and prevent children leaving unsupervised.
- The outdoor area is adequately secured with fencing and gates which are secured.
- The entrance to the kitchenette in the care room was adequately secured with a bolt.
- The emergency exit door to the rear of the care room is unobstructed.
- Toys and equipment are well maintained and free from hazards.
- Cleaning sprays are stored out of reach.

**Requirement not met:**

- Warm water was not available in the sinks in the sanitary area to support adequate handwashing.

**Response from Provider:**

- The water heater was turned off. A plumber has been engaged and the water is now heating.

**Summary Comment:**

The action taken by the proposed provider has met the regulatory requirement.

**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) The registered provider ensured a staff member is trained in First Aid Response (FAR).
- (2) (a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is available in the care room, mounted to the wall out of reach of the children but available to the staff members if required.

**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) A mechanism is in place to record monthly fire drills.
- (b) A record detailing the servicing of both the smoke alarms and firefighting equipment was available for review. This showed that the firefighting equipment had been last serviced in December 2023 while the smoke alarms had last been serviced on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- (4) A notice which showed the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire emergency was displayed in the care 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:

Full insurance was submitted to the Registration Office, valid from 03/05/24 until 27/03/25 covering a maximum of 38 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)
  - On visual inspection, the care room appeared to be of stable structure.
  - Water is provided by the public mains.
  - Sewage is removed from the building via the public sewage system.
- (b)
  - The service entrance is secure, and access will be managed by staff.
  - The outdoor area is secure with fencing and the access gate is secured with a bolt.
- (c)
  - Large windows provided natural light to the care rooms. This is supplemented by artificial light in both the care rooms and sanitary areas. Shatterproof covers are fitted on all light fixtures.
  - The room will be ventilated by opening windows. Passive ventilation will be provided through trickle vents in the windows.
  - An ambient temperature is maintained in the care room.

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	<p>(d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The service was adequately cleaned and maintained.</li> <li>• Cleaning schedules were available.</li> <li>• The service was adequately rodent proofed.</li> </ul> <p>(e)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four cubicles are available for use by the service in the sanitary facilities along with four sinks. This is adequate for the proposed number of children.</li> <li>• Additional sanitary facilities are available opposite the children's toilets which will be used by staff.</li> </ul>
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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 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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	(1)(2) The care room measured 40.519m <sup>2</sup> which is adequate for 22 children attending on a sessional basis and 18 attending on a full day care basis.
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