

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

**Tusla I.D:** TU2024FL002

**Name of Service:** Cocoon Childcare

**Address of Service:** 9 Cronan's Well Park, Mooretown, Swords  
Co Dublin, K67 K2K8

**Email Address:** nikki@cocoonchildcare.ie

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Nikki Battams

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	✓	<b>Part-Time</b>	✓	<b>Drop-In</b>	
	<b>Sessional</b>	✓	<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

**Proposed service type:** Proposed full day care, part-time and sessional service

**Proposed Number of Children:** 86

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection:**

- To cater for children aged 0 to 6 years on a sessional, part-time and full day care basis.
- To accommodate **76** pre-school children at any one time based on the clear floor space calculated at inspection and the upper age ranges per room specified. This information is outlined under Regulation 30.

**Registered service:** Registered Full Day Care Service for 76 Children

**Date of Inspection:** 2 5 0 4 2 0 2 4

**Inspection Undertaken by:** AM Coyle

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** 181-189 Lakeshore Drive,  
Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.

### Rationale for Inspection

#### Proposed New Service

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

**Registration Status:** Registered Full Day Care Service for 76 Children

**Date of Registration:** 29<sup>th</sup> April 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>	Cocoon Childcare Swords would be the fifteenth early years' service owned and operated by the proposed registered provider across Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare. It is proposed that Cocoon Childcare would provide full day-care, part-time care and sessional preschool to children between the ages of 0– 6 years operating from 07:30am to 6:30pm Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. The service proposes to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme for 38 weeks of the year.
<b>Premises</b>	It is proposed that the new service would be conducted from a recently constructed purpose-built 2-storey premises located in a newly developed housing estate in Swords. There are 5 care rooms provided in the premises, namely the Wobbler Room 1 and Wobbler Room 2 located on the ground floor, and the Toddler room, Pre-school Room 1 and Preschool room 2 located on the first floor. A sleep room is located on the ground floor adjacent to the Wobbler room 1. Ancillary accommodation includes sanitary facilities on both floors and a kitchen, office and a staff room located on the first floor. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises.
<b>Staffing</b>	The proposed registered provider has recruited a service manager who would coordinate the day-to-day operational management of the service, supported by the area manager and registered provider. Nine further staff members have been recruited and it is proposed that the number of staff employed will increase as the service reaches maximum capacity.
<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, area manager and the proposed person in charge of operating the service who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff	
<b>Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment</b>	
<i>(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.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>(1)(a) The requirement has been met.</p> <p>It is proposed that the service manager would be the designated person in charge on a daily basis and that a named person would be appointed to deputise as required.</p>

Part III - Management and Staff	
<b>Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels</b>	
<i>(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.</i>	
<i>(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—                      (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.</i>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The proposed registered provider is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 and would ensure that an adequate number of adults would at all times work directly with the children in the service.</p> <p>The registered provider has employed 10 staff members including the service manager and it is proposed that the number of staff employed will increase as the service reaches maximum capacity.</p> <p>(8)(a) The proposed registered provider would ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times when the service is in operation.</p>

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.
- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph applies, shall ensure that—
- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or
  - (b) where no such space is provided, the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The care rooms were resourced with a broad range of suitable play materials and equipment to facilitate children to initiate and sustain meaningful play activities. Interest areas were clearly defined and included well-resourced home corners, libraries, construction areas, a wide range of tabletop materials, sensory play materials including sand trays and arts and crafts areas. The play materials were stored at an accessible level to the pre-school children. A secure outdoor area is located to the rear of the service.

(b) A sleep room containing 8 standard cots is provided in the sleep room adjacent to Wobbler room 1 on the ground floor. A further 9 standard cots are available. The proposed registered provider is aware of national safe sleep best practice guidelines. Seventeen stackable beds are available for pre-school children aged 2 years and older who would require or wish to sleep or rest in the service. A rest area is available in the care rooms with soft matting, cushions and soft toys provided close to the libraries to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the day if required.

(3)(a) The outdoor play area is fully enclosed by the outer walls of the premises and by high boundary walls. The outdoor play area is observed to be suitable and secure, and no safety hazards are noted. The area is surfaced with artificial grass with a surrounding concrete pathway.

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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 requirement has been met.

The proposed registered provider has employed a chef to prepare and cook all meals and snacks for children attending on a full day care and part time basis. The children attending on a sessional ECCE basis will bring their snack with them from home. A 4-week menu will be available and drinking water would be made available to the children throughout the day.

### 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 requirement has been met.

There are no hazards observed by the inspector that would impact the health, safety or welfare of the children attending the service. Appropriate measures have been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children.

- The external doors, windows and side gate were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- The windows in the care rooms were fitted with restrictive opening devices.
- Blind cords were secure in all of the care rooms.
- Suitable handrails are provided on the staircases. The staircases are also adequately lit, and the floor covering is in good condition.
- All furniture and equipment were clean and in good condition and suitable for use by the proposed age groups.
- The heating system for the service was thermostatically controlled to prevent radiators from exceeding the maximum surface temperature of 50°C.
- Thermostatically controlled running water was available at the wash hand basins in the service.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There are five staff members in the service who hold in-date first aid response (FAR) training.

(2)(a) First aid boxes were suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions in the care rooms, available at all times for the children if necessary.

### 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) A template is available which would be used to record fire drills that would take place monthly at the service.

(b) A record is maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The firefighting equipment is certified as having been serviced in April 2024 and the smoke alarm was installed on the 02/11/2023.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed in the care rooms in the service.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

An insurance certificate is available which shows that there is insurance cover in place for up to 76 pre-school children attending the service on a full day care basis, valid until 31/01/2025.

### 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 is a recently constructed purpose-built childcare facility which appears to be in good condition throughout.

(b) The premises appears safe and was found to be appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years' service. Digital electronic locks are in place on the front door, the staff and parents will be provided with access codes. The side entrance leading to the rear of the service is fitted with a gate at both ends of the passageway which are secured.

Each care room and the kitchen have an internal phone in place to support communication and facilitate staff members to summon assistance if required.

(c)

#### Lighting:

The premises is adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

#### Heating:

The premises is heated by an air to heat system. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection. The registered provider was aware of the safe sleep ambient temperature range of 16-20°C.

Ventilation:

Ventilation in the care rooms is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents. The internal sanitary accommodation and nappy changing areas are fitted with a combination of openable windows and mechanical ventilation units.

(d) The premises is in a clean condition and in a good state of repair.

(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation including nappy changing facilities were available in the service.

- In Wobbler room 1, one toilet, one nappy changing area and two wash hand basins are provided in the sanitary accommodation adjacent to the care room.
- In Wobbler room 2, one toilet, one nappy changing area and two wash hand basins are provided in the sanitary accommodation adjacent to the care room.
- In the Toddler room, one toilet and one wash hand basin are provided in the sanitary accommodation adjacent to the care room.
- In Preschool room 1, two toilets and two wash hand basins and a nappy changing area are provided in the sanitary accommodation adjacent to the care room.
- In Preschool room 2 two toilets and two wash hand basins and a nappy changing area are provided in the sanitary accommodation adjacent to the care room.
- A sink is provided in all of the care rooms.
- Two staff toilets are provided, one located on the ground floor and one on the first floor of the service.

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 clear floor space available in the service can accommodate 76 pre-school children. The proposed registered provider is aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7.
- (2)
- The clear floor space in the Wobbler Room 1 measured 28 square metres which meets the space requirements for 8 pre-school children aged 0-1 years or 10 pre-school children aged 1-2 years attending on a part-time or on a full day care basis, the age range of the children accommodated in this care room will depend on the age range of the children requiring childcare places in the service.
  - The clear floor space in the Wobbler Room 2 measured 37.47 square metres which meets the space requirements for the proposed 13 pre-school children aged 1-2 years attending on a part-time or on a full day care basis.
  - The clear floor space in the Toddler room measured 32.7 square metres which meets the space requirements for the proposed 12 pre-school children aged 2-3 years attending on a part-time or on a full day care basis.
  - The clear floor space in the Pre-school Room 1 measured 38 square metres which meets the space requirements for the proposed 16 pre-school children aged 3-6 years attending on a part-time or on a full day care basis or 20 children attending on an ECCE sessional basis.
  - The clear floor space in the Pre-school Room 2 measured 39 square metres which meets the space requirements for the proposed 16 pre-school children aged 3-6 years attending on a part-time or on a full day care basis or 21 children attending on an ECCE sessional basis.