

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024FL012

Name of Service: Home from Home Balrothery

Address of Service: Darcystown, Balrothery, Co Dublin K32 KX97

Email Address: cawleyrachel@hotmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Rachel Cawley & Danielle Cawley.

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

Proposed service type: Proposed to operate a new full day care, part-time and sessional early years' service.

Proposed Number of Children: 70

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)

- To cater for children aged 1 to 6 years on a sessional, part-time and full day care basis.
- To operate from 7.30am to 6.30pm each weekday for 51 weeks each year.

To accommodate 48 pre-school children at any one time.

Registered service: Full Day Care 48 children.

Date of Inspection:	2	8	1	1	2	0	2	4
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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: Full Day Care 48 children.

Date of Registration: Registered 3rd December 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	Home from Home Balrothery would be the third early years' service owned and operated by the proposed registered providers in the Balbriggan area. It is proposed that Home from Home Balrothery would provide full day-care, part-time care and sessional preschool to children between the ages of 1– 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.
Premises	It is proposed that the new service would be conducted from a single storey converted domestic dwelling that was previously used as an Early years' service on the outskirts of Balrothery village in North Dublin. There are 5 care rooms provided in the premises, namely the Wobbler Room, Toddler Room 1, Toddler room 2, Preschool sessional room and the Preschool full day care room. A sleep room is located alongside the office. Ancillary accommodation includes sanitary facilities, kitchen and an office. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is located to the side of the premises.
Staffing	The proposed registered providers have recruited a service manager who would coordinate the day-to-day operational management of the service, supported by the registered providers. Four further staff members have been recruited and it is proposed that the number of staff employed will increase as the service reaches maximum capacity.
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 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>
Acknowledgement	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of both proposed registered providers 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:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

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.

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 has been met.

(1) The proposed registered providers are 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.

The proposed registered providers have employed 5 staff members including the service manager and it is proposed that the number of staff employed will increase when the service reaches maximum capacity.

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 range of suitable play materials and equipment to facilitate children to initiate and sustain meaningful play activities. 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 3 standard cots is provided in the sleep room of the service and a further 6 cots have been ordered with delivery pending. The proposed registered provider is aware of national safe sleep best practice guidelines. 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 and cushions to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the day if required.

(3)(a) The outdoor play area is located to the side of the service and is fully enclosed by fencing. The outdoor play area is observed to be suitable and secure, and no safety hazards are noted. The area is surfaced with safety tiles.

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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.

All meals and snacks will be provided to children attending on a full day care basis and will be prepared and cooked in the onsite kitchen.
The children attending on a sessional ECCE basis will bring their snack with them from home. A 2-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.

- The external doors and windows 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 the care rooms.
- 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. The warm water temperature in the taps throughout the service the service was recorded between 30.4°C and 31.7°C on the day of inspection.

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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) First aid response (FAR) training is available for a staff member in the service.

(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 on 22/11/ 2024 and the smoke alarm was maintained on the 21/11/2024.

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

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 70 pre-school children attending the service on a full day care basis, valid until 27/03/2025.

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 appears to be in sound condition and well maintained.

(b) The service is appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access.

The outdoor play area is surrounded by metal fencing with a latched gate to secure the area when children are playing outdoors.

(c)

Lighting

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

Heating

- The service is heated by means of an oil-fired central heating system.

Ventilation

- Ventilation in the care rooms and sanitary accommodation is provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents.

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

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

- A sanitary area containing a nappy changing mat and sink is available to support nappy changing for the children attending the Wobbler room.

- A sanitary area containing 1 toilet, 1 nappy changing area and a sink is available to support the children attending both Toddler rooms.
- In the Sessional Preschool room two toilets and two wash hand basins are provided in the sanitary accommodation adjacent to the care room.
- In the Full day care Preschool room two toilets and two wash hand basins are provided in the sanitary accommodation adjacent to the care room.
- A staff toilet is available.

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 minimum space regulatory requirement can be met for 48 pre-school children to be accommodated in the service. 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 measured 20.32 square metres which meets the space requirements for 7 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 1 measured 17.77 square metres which meets the space requirements for 7 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 Toddler room 2 measured 11.75 square metres which meets the space requirements for 5 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 Sessional Pre-school Room measured 22.14 square metres which meets the space requirements for 9 pre-school children aged 3-6 years attending on a part-time or on a full day care basis or 12 children attending on an ECCE sessional basis.
- The clear floor space in the Full day care Pre-school Room measured 32.43 square metres which meets the space requirements for 14 pre-school children aged 3-6 years attending on a part-time or on a full day care basis or 17 children attending on an ECCE sessional basis.