

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

**Tusla I.D:** TU2024KE008

**Name of Service:** Tots, Grey Abbey

**Address of Service:** Grey Abbey, Kildare Town, Kildare, R51 TX68.

**Email Address:** [greyabbey@tots.ie](mailto:greyabbey@tots.ie)

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Annette Akerlind and Audrey Murray

<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:** Full Day Care

**Proposed Number of Children:** 85

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection**  
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)  
A maximum of 85 children, aged 0 - 6 years of age, can be accommodated at any one time inclusive of children attending on a sessional basis.

**Registered service:** Full Day Care 85 children.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	3	1	2	2	0	2	4
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**Inspection Undertaken by:** E. Mulhern and O. Quill

**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Years Inspectorate, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre, Child and Family Agency, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91X38W.

<b>Rationale for Inspection</b>
<b>Proposed New Service</b>

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

**Registration Status:** Full Day Care 85 children.

**Date of Registration:** 12<sup>th</sup> 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Tots, Grey Abbey is proposed for registration as a private, early years service. The providers currently have nine registered services. The providers propose to offer a full day care service, catering for a maximum of 85 children aged 0 - 6 years old. They propose to operate the service Monday to Friday from 7am-6.30pm for 51 weeks of the year. Part-time and sessional care and education will also be offered.
<b>Premises</b>	It is proposed the service will operate from a two-story, purpose-built building situated within a residential estate in Kildare Town. There are five pre-school rooms for children – three on the ground floor and two on the first floor. The ground floor includes a designated cot room, sanitary facilities and an office. The first floor includes sanitary facilities, a kitchen and a staff break room. An outdoor play area is located to the rear of the building.
<b>Staffing</b>	The providers propose to initially operate the service with 14 staff members. This includes a manager, an assistant manager, a chef and 11 adults who will work directly with the children.
<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>

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<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the providers and managers 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 requirement has been met.**

(1) (a) There is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise.

### 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 providers propose to initially operate the service with 14 staff members. This includes a manager, an assistant manager, a chef and 11 adults who will work directly with the children.

### 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,

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*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.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p><b>The requirement has been met.</b></p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(a) The providers propose to allocate the children to one of five pre-school rooms according to their age and stage of development. The rooms were laid out with equipment to cater for the play needs of the children. The equipment was visible and easily accessible to the children. Appropriately sized furniture was available for table-top activities.</p> <p>(b) A cot room with eight standard cots was provided on the ground floor. Two floor beds were available for children aged between 15 months and 2 years for whom a cot has been deemed unsuitable. Twelve stackable beds were available for children over 2 years of age. Suitable rest areas were provided in each room.</p> <p>(2)(a) There was a fully enclosed outdoor play area at the rear of the service. The perimeter was secured with high walls and fencing. Gates were secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving the area unsupervised. The ground was surfaced with artificial grass, impact absorbent matting and cement. There was space for free movement and storage facilities for equipment and toys. The area had items to support play and gross motor development including climbing equipment, a slide, ride-on toys and water tables.</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 requirement has been met.**

A fully equipped kitchen was available for storing, preparing and cooking food. Drinking water was available. The providers reported they had employed a cook and had a four-week rolling menu available. This consisted of varied and nutritious meals and snacks for children attending on a part-time or full-day care basis. The providers reported that children attending on a sessional basis will bring their own lunch from home.

Refrigerators were available for storing perishable items. The providers advised the relevant health authority had been informed regarding the preparation of food on the premises.

### 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 providers took measures to provide for the safety of children. The outdoor area had a high-level perimeter wall, high level fence and secured gate. All windows were fitted with fire-safe restrictors. Emergency exits were clear. Cleaning products were stored securely out of children's reach.

The premises and equipment were in good condition. Cleaning schedules were in place for all rooms and facilities. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and wall mounted paper hand towel dispensers were available in the sanitary accommodation for hand washing and drying. Pedal operated bins were in place

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	throughout the service for the hygienic disposal of waste. A pest control contract was in place.
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	Play equipment with packaging labelling the contents as choking hazards and not suitable for children aged 0-3 were available in rooms that were proposed to accommodate children aged 0-3 years.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	The room equipment has been audited and items not suitable for the age group to attend the room have been removed.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	Images of equipment within rooms were submitted in keeping with the response.  <b>The requirement has been met.</b>

### 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

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<b>The requirement is met.</b>  (1) Current certification in relation to First Aid Response (FAR) training was available for two managers who the providers reported will always be on the premises. Three staff members had attended FAR training the previous week and were awaiting certificates.  (2)(a) & (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available for use on both floors.
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### Part VI - Safety

 An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	Child and Family Agency Act 2013 Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016	Version 04 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.21 F06 FFP (New)	<b>6 of 10</b>
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Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures	
<p>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—</p> <p>(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and</p> <p>(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.</p>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>(1)</p> <p>(a) The providers were aware of the requirement to record all fire drills.</p> <p>(b) Records were available for the commissioning of the fire alarm system and fire fighting equipment dated November 2024.</p>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p>(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were not displayed. It is acknowledged that maps of evacuation routes were displayed throughout the premises.</p>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<p>The fire maps now have clearly written instructions to be followed in the event of an evacuation or practice fire drill.</p>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	<p>Images of the notices within rooms were submitted in keeping with the response.</p> <p><b>The requirement has been met.</b></p>

### Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance	
<p>A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.</p>	
<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p><b>The requirement has been met.</b></p> <p>A certificate of insurance cover was available for a maximum of 85 children, valid from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2024 to the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.</p>

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### 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 premises was visually in good state of repair.
- (b) The entrance to the service was secured and could be controlled/monitored by the staff to supervise entry and exit. The outdoor area was secured to prevent a child leaving the area unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.
- (c) The preschool rooms had a good source of natural light. This could be supplemented with built-in ceiling lighting. There was a climate control system operating. The ambient temperature of the pre-school rooms was recorded between 20 and 22°C. The ambient temperature of the cot room could be controlled to remain between 16 and 20°C. Windows could be opened to provide natural ventilation. Mechanical ventilation was available in the sanitary areas.
- (d) The premises were in good condition and cleaning schedules were in place.
- (e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided to accommodate the proposed number of children. There was a total of seven toilets with wash hand basins designated for children’s use and three changing units with wash hand basins for nappy changing. Separate sanitary facilities with a total of three toilets with wash hand basins were available for staff. Pedal operated bins were available in all sanitary areas for the appropriate disposal of waste and nappies.

#### Requirement not met:

- (b) A door on the ground floor, for use in an emergency evacuation was not adequately secured to prevent a child leaving unsupervised. The mechanism that was

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	in place to prevent a child from opening the door was not functioning. The door led directly to a road, posing a risk of injury.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	(b) The emergency door has been rewired and is working perfectly now.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	(b) Video footage was submitted in keeping with the response.  <b>The requirement has been met.</b>

### 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.
- (3) 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.
- (4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—
  - (a) a sessional pre-school service, and
  - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both,
 the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<b>The requirement has been met.</b>  (1) Adequate clear floor space was provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated below.  (2) There was adequate clear floor space for 85 children to attend according to the number, age range and type of service proposed as outlined in the chart below.
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Room Number	Proposed age Range	Clear floor space available (m <sup>2</sup> )	Maximum number of children proposed
Room 1	1 - 3 years	43.5	18
Room 2	0 - 3 years	29	12
Room 3	2 - 6 years	19.3	11
Room 4	2 - 6 years	43.88	22
Room 5	2 - 6 years	41.08	22

(3) Not applicable as the providers propose to provide a full day care, part-time and sessional service.

(4)(a)(b) The providers demonstrated an awareness of the clear space requirements according to age and type of service. They reported that this would be considered when allocating children to rooms so the minimum space requirements will be met at all times.