

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2024LH001
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Name of Service:	Kilsaran Preschool
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Address of Service:	Kilsaran, Castlebellingham, Co Louth A91 RY82
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Email Address:	donnakirk2@hotmail.com
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Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Donna Kirk
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Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type:	To operate a new sessional early years service.
Proposed Number of Children:	22
Outcome of the F06 Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To operate from 9.00am to 12.00midday each weekday for 38 weeks each year. To cater for 22 children aged 2 to 6 years on a sessional basis.
Registered service:	Registered Sessional Service 22 children.

Date of Inspection:	2	0	0	8	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by:	S. Taaffe
Title:	Early years inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airsi Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service 22 children.
Date of Registration:	22 nd August 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	The proposed registered provider has applied to establish Kilsaran Preschool, operating as a privately owned sessional early years service, conducted from 9.00am to 12.00midday from Monday to Friday for 38 weeks each year, participating in the state funded early childhood care and education (ECCE) scheme for eligible pre-school children. The proposed registered provider already operates two separate sessional early years services in Dundalk.
Premises	The proposed new service would be conducted from two interconnecting rooms in a detached prefabricated unit positioned on school grounds to the rear of a primary school in Kilsaran village in Co Louth.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider would work in this service in the role as person in charge on a daily basis and has recruited 2 further staff members, all of whom would work directly with the pre-school children attending the proposed service.
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 the proposed registered provider who was 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:

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

The proposed registered provider who would be the designated person in charge on a daily basis has recruited two staff members to work in the proposed service, one of whom would be nominated to deputise in the absence of the proposed registered provider when 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

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 are working directly with the children in the service at all times.

The proposed registered provider and 2 staff members would work directly with the children in the service, ensuring the minimum adult to child ratios would be maintained at all times.

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 proposed service would be operated from two interconnecting rooms with adequate clear floor space for the children to play indoors. The preschool room has suitable play equipment and a number of appropriately resourced clearly defined interest areas including a home corner, shop area, construction area, arts and crafts area and library. The second room is designated for sensory play experiences including sand and water play and physical activities such as dancing.

(b) Suitable rest facilities are available in the service. There is a comfortable and suitable area with a low level child-sized couch, cushions and mat provided for a child to rest or take a break from activities if required.

(2)(a) Pre-school children would have access on a daily basis to an outdoor play area which is located in an enclosed area constructed on the extensive school grounds to the rear of the primary school. This space is fitted with impact-absorbent surfacing and is subdivided by fencing into two distinct sections, one of which contains play equipment including a large wooden climbing frame, swings and balance beams and another section which contains a smaller wooden climbing frame.

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.

It is proposed that parents provide the children’s morning snack from home, in keeping with the service’s healthy eating policy. Drinking water is available for children to take when thirsty or desired.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

- The main entrance door leading into the prefabricated premises is secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised or an unauthorised adult from entering the service.
- A sounder alarm is fitted to the emergency exit door in the room designated for sensory play experiences including sand and water play and physical activities such as dancing. If the door is opened using the internal push bar, the sounder alarm is activated, alerting staff.
- There is running hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towel to support effective hand hygiene at the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation.
- A fridge is available in the preschool room for the storage of perishable food items.
- Play materials and equipment are observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children proposed to attend the service.
- No trailing flexes, cables or electric items are accessible to the children.
- Medicines and cleaning agents are stored out of the reach of children.
- The proposed registered provider states that children will be accompanied by a staff member when using the second toilet which is located in the main primary school building and which is provided for use by children attending the early years service.
- The proposed registered provider has conducted a risk assessment to ensure appropriate measures are in place when children are being escorted by staff members to and from the enclosed outdoor play area, which is located on the extensive school grounds to the rear of the primary school, a short walk from the preschool premises.
- The proposed registered provider has conducted a risk assessment to ensure the play equipment including climbing frames provided in the enclosed outdoor play area are safe and suitable for use by pre-school children.

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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) The proposed registered provider is aware of the requirement for a person with in-date first aid response (FAR) training to be at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. There is evidence available in the service to show that the proposed registered provider and one of the two recruited staff members hold in-date FAR training.

(2)(a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is provided in the service, 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) The proposed registered provider has a template 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 fire fighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service. The fire fighting equipment is certified as having been serviced on 31/08/2023 and a certificate for the design, installation and commissioning of the fire detection and alarm system dated 04/12/2023 is available on the premises.

(4) A map and notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed 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.

The registration office received a copy of the insurance policy which ensures adequate insurance cover for 22 children from 26/08/2024 to 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 service is proposed to be conducted from two adjoining rooms in a detached prefabricated unit which appears to be of sound and stable structure.

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

The safety-surfaced outdoor play area, located in an enclosed section of the spacious school grounds, is fenced and gated and secured when children are playing outdoors. The primary school's woodland walkway is also enclosed by fencing and solely accessed by children and staff members attending the primary school and proposed early years service.

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

The premises is heated by means of ceiling-mounted electric heaters.

Ventilation in the two preschool rooms and the toilet cubicle in the primary school is provided by means of open-able windows and trickle vents. Mechanical ventilation is provided in the sanitary area adjoining the preschool room in the prefabricated early years premises.

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

(e) Suitable and adequate sanitary accommodation is provided for up to 22 pre-school children with 1 toilet and 1 wash-hand basin provided in the sanitary accommodation off the preschool room in the prefabricated unit, and a second toilet and wash hand basin provided for preschool children's use, in close proximity in the primary school. Staff have access to the staff toilets in the primary school when necessary. There are currently no nappy changing facilities provided in the service as the policy of the early years service is that all children must be toilet trained prior to commencement.

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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.
- (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.

Requirement met:

(1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement for a maximum number of 22 pre-school children in the proposed service.

(3) The minimum space regulatory requirement can be met for 22 pre-school children aged 2½-6 years attending the service on a sessional basis. The proposed registered provider is aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7.

- The clear floor space in the preschool room measures 38.8 square metres.
- The clear floor space in the room designated for sand and water play and physical activities such as dancing measures 32.3 square metres.