

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024LH002

Name of Service: Cuddles Creche P&S Ltd

Address of Service: Tallanstown, Co. Louth

Email Address: Cuddlestallanstown24@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Pamela Kelly and Sophie Kimmins

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

Proposed service type: Full Day Care, Part-time and Sessional

Proposed Number of Children: 34

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

- Provide full day care, part time and sessional care from 08:00 - 5:45 Monday -Thursday and from 08:00 - 5:30 on Friday.
- Cater for a maximum of 34 preschool children aged 0 - 6 years.
- Employ 8 staff to work with the preschool children.

Registered service: Registered Full Daycare, Part-time Sessional service 34 children

Date of Inspection: 2 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4

Inspection Undertaken by: M.Flood

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Child Wellbeing Centre, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Daycare, Part-time Sessional service 34 children
Date of Registration:	3 rd October 2024

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	Cuddles Creche P & S Ltd is a proposed new service. The service proposes to operate on a full day care basis from 8:00 – 17:45 Monday- Friday. The service proposes to cater for a maximum number of 34 pre-school children age range 0 - 6 years.
Premises	The proposed new service will be operated from a 2-storey attached building situated in the small village of Tallanstown in Co. Louth. There is street parking for drop off and collection. The premises includes 2 rooms which are located on the ground floor, the Preschool room and a 2 nd large playroom which is sub-divided into 3 areas, namely the playschool area, the toddler area and a sleep area. Ancillary accommodation consists of sanitary and nappy changing facilities, a kitchen area and a second storey which is used as storage. There is an outdoor play area to the rear of the building.
Staffing	The proposed registered providers intend to employ 8 childcare staff to work directly with the pre-school children attending the 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</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

	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.
Acknowledgement	The Inspector would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed 2 registered providers and proposed person in charge who were present on the day of the inspection. No children were present during 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 service has a designated person in charge and a named deputy person who is one of the proposed registered providers.

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 requirement has been met.

It is proposed that 8 staff members will be available to work directly with the pre-school children. The proposed registered providers are aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 and 2 of Schedule 6.

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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) The playrooms are bright and appropriately laid out. Age-appropriate tables and chairs are available, with low level open shelving displaying toy boxes. A number of defined interest areas in both rooms are supported with toys and equipment and include a home corner, an office, dolls and supporting equipment, a dress up area with mirrors, a reading corner with a variety of books on display and soft cushions plus mats to sit and read a book. A number of low-level shelving units with a variety of blocks, trains and tracks and figures are also available.</p> <p>(b) A rest area equipped with soft mats and cushions is provided in the playrooms to enable the pre-school children to take a break from activities if required.</p> <p>There are day beds available for the children who may require sleep during the day. A separate sleep area is available which contains 3 standard cots and 2 small cots.</p> <p>(2) (a) An outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises. The outdoor area is gated and secured and has an artificial grass surface. A partially covered area is also available and can be used in all types of weather. The children have access to some toys including a sand/water tray, tables and chairs, toy kitchens and ride on equipment. The</p>
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

proposed registered providers have given assurances that a daily risk assessment will be carried out on the area prior to the children having access and that adequate supervision will be provided at all times to ensure the safety of the children.

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 the service will provide breakfast and all snacks and lunches for the children attending the service. It is also proposed that an external catering company will provide the dinners, which will then be reheated by the service. A 4-week varied menu is available. A refrigerator is available in the service for the appropriate storage of perishable items. Potable drinking water is available in the service.

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 following are some examples of the measures taken to safeguard the safety of the children in the service:

- Pedal operated bins were available. A pedal operated, lined and sealed bin was also available for the disposal of nappies.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and single use hand towels are available to promote effective hand hygiene.
- The designated emergency exits are clear and unobstructed.
- All cleaning products are inaccessible to the preschool children.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

- The radiators throughout the service are guarded with a fixed and secure guard.
- Documented daily risk assessment templates are also available and proposed for use in the care room, sanitary areas and outdoor area.
- The external doors are appropriately secured to prevent children exiting from the service unsupervised or to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- A refrigerator is available in the service to store perishable items.

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) Documentary evidence of certification of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) qualifications are available in the service for 3 proposed staff members.

(2)(a) &(b) Two first aid boxes which are suitably equipped, are safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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:

- (1) (a) A recording system is in place to maintain a record of monthly fire drills.
- (b) A maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises is available and detailed 09/2024 and 20/08/2024 respectively as the most recent maintenance checks carried out.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire is available in the service. The fire assembly point is clearly identified and visible.

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 Team received insurance cover to operate a Full Daycare service with 34 children, cover from 07/10/2024 To 27/03/2025.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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) On visual inspection the building appears to be sound and stable.
 - (b) The entrance doors are secured by means of a thumb-turn device and locking system which are accessible to the staff only.
 - (c) The proposed care rooms, sanitary accommodation and circulation areas are adequately lit with a combination of natural and artificial lighting. Temperatures throughout the service were within appropriate temperature ranges. The heating system is an oil-fired system. The care rooms are adequately ventilated by means of open able windows and doors. The sanitary areas have a mechanical ventilation system.
 - (d) The premises is in a clean condition and in good repair.
 - (e) There are an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins available for the proposed number of children attending the service.
- The nappy changing facilities available are suitable to cater for a maximum of 11 preschool children.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New 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:

The requirement has been met:

(1) Adequate clear floor space is available in the proposed pre-school service for the children's work, play and movement to cater for the proposed 34 preschool children.

(2) The following clear floor space is available in the care rooms:

Preschool Room: A total of 37.96 m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 20 preschool children aged 2½ - 6 years on a sessional basis. A maximum of 16 preschool aged 3 - 6 years can attend this room on a full day care or parttime basis.

Playschool Area: A total of 16.17 m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 6 preschool children aged 2- 3 years on a full day care or part-time basis.

Toddler Area: A total of 27.08 m² clear floor space is available to cater for a maximum of 9 preschool children aged 1 - 2 years on a full day care or part-time basis.

Adequate clear floor space is therefore available to cater for the proposed 34 preschool children to attend the service.