

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2024LK005

Name of Service Knockadea Cairde Preschool Ltd

Address of Service: Knockadea National School, Knockadea, Ballylanders, Co Limerick V35DW73

Email Address: Valb77@gmail.com; cairdestaff@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Valarie Mc Donnell

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

Proposed change: From sessional to part time care and sessional care
Opening hours from 09:00am-12:00 to 09:00 -14:00pm
Change in the number of preschool children from 11 to 22

Proposed Number of Children: 22

Recommended Change Following Inspection: From sessional to part time care and sessional care
Opening hours from 09:00am-12:00 to 09:00 -14:00pm
Change in the number of preschool children from 11 to 22

Registered change: Change in service type form sessional to part time care and sessional
Opening hours from 09:00 -12:00 to 09:00 -14:00
Change in the number of preschool children from 11 to 22

Date of Inspection:

1	8	0	9	2	0	2	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Inspection undertaken by: E Browne

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Title:	Early years inspector
---------------	-----------------------

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Tusla, Early years inspectorate, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
--	---

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part-time & Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration	6th October 2025

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	<p>The service is registered to provide a sessional service for children aged 2 – 6 years, Monday – Friday 09:00 – 12:00 for 38 weeks of the year, including the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme for eligible children.</p> <p>The service caters for 11 preschool children in the morning for sessional care.</p> <p>The service proposes to provide sessional care from 09:00 to 12:00 and part time care from 12:00 to 14:00 each day and proposes to increase the number of preschool children in attendance from 11 to 22 each day.</p>
Premises	Knockadea Cairde Preschool is a sessional preschool service, located in Knockadea National School in the townland of Ballylanders, Co. Limerick.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	The service plans to move from their current smaller rooms into one large preschool room to facilitate the proposed increase in attendance from 11 to 22 preschool children.
Staffing	The registered provider does not work in the service. There will be a designated person in charge and two adults working directly with the children each day. The adults all hold a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education. An additional adult is available to cover in the event of an emergency if required.
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 the following 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 registering the change in circumstance. 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>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff, and school principal who were 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:

The requirement has been met.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(1)(a) The registered provider has appointed a person who will be the designated person in charge each day and there is a named person who is able to deputise if 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 registered provider will ensure that there will be an adequate number of staff employed to work in the service each day. The staff roster demonstrated that the service has 3 staff members working directly with the 22 preschool children in the morning and 2 staff members present up until 14:00 pm each day.

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 moves premises 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.*

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Requirement met:	<p>(1)(a) There will be one large playroom in operation on the premises. The playroom has a number of designated interest areas that are resourced with a wide variety of materials including real, natural and sensory resources. The environment is visually pleasing, and resources are displayed at the child's eye level to support the children to think and extend their learning, natural curiosity and sense of wonder.</p> <p>(b) The playroom has a designated rest area with a couch, floor mats, cushions, and floor rugs for children to use throughout the morning. There are 8 sleep beds available for the children who may need to relax and sleep, and these will be accommodated in an appropriate area of the playroom.</p> <p>(2)(a) The service has sole use to an enclosed outdoor play area located off the playroom. Also, the children have access to the school yard and to a designated play area that has timber play structures in place and a soft ground surface area. This play area is fully enclosed and equipped with a wide range of play materials.</p>
-------------------------	--

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

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:	<p>The service will ensure that the drinks, foods/meals provided will be suitable, varied and nutritious for the children attending the service. Additional snacks outside mealtimes will be available to the preschool children.</p> <p>There are facilities to refrigerate as required.</p> <p>The healthy eating policy for the service has been updated in line with the requirements for a part time service. The updated policy is available in the service for parents and staff to view.</p>
-------------------------	--

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.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Requirement met:	<p>The entrance door to the service will be closed during the hours of operation and there is a keypad entry system at the main entrance.</p> <p>The emergency exit doors are unobstructed and clear.</p> <p>The policies and procedures for the service have been updated in line with the operation of a part time service.</p> <p>A safe storage area is in place at the service main entrance hall for the children’s belongings.</p> <p>There is a separate area for the storage for cleaning materials and equipment’s for the service.</p> <p>A fridge is available for the storage of perishable food in the playroom.</p> <p>There is provision for safe storage of medications in the service if required.</p>
-------------------------	--

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:	<p>The requirement has been met</p> <p>(1) There are 2 staff members working in the service who has current first aid responder certification with an expiry date in October 2026.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) The first aid box is readily identifiable and accessible to the staff working in the service. The fully equipped first aid box is stored safely in the service and available to the children.</p>
-------------------------	---

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

 <p>An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency</p>	<p>Child and Family Agency Act 2013</p> <p>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016</p>	<p>Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)</p>	<p>6 of 9</p>
---	--	---	---------------

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(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 firefighting 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 record was available with the monthly fire drills documented from January to June 2025. The first recorded fire drill for the preschool new year was 9th of September 2025.

(b) The maintenance record for the firefighting equipment dated October 2024 and the fire alarm system dated September 2026 were on file.

(4) A fire assembly point was identified in the main school yard. The notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the main entrance area of 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

The current insurance certificate indicates cover for 22 children to attend the sessional and part time service. The certificate expiry date is the 27th of March 2026.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 school building appears to be well maintained with no observable indications of defects.

(b) The entrance and emergency door to the service will be closed and a keypad entry system is in place at the main entrance. All persons entering and leaving the building must be escorted by a staff member. The physical environment is safe and secure for purpose of a preschool service.

(c) The playroom is an inviting bright environment with sufficient windows that provides enough light and comfort for activities. There is a balance between natural and artificial lighting.

The service will ensure the playroom and sanitary accommodation will be maintained within the following temperature limits of 18 to 22 degrees Celsius. The gas heating system last date of servicing was on the 6th of June 2025.

Openable windows are provided in the playroom and in the sanitary accommodation as a means of air circulation.

(d) The premises is clean, well maintained and a routine cleaning schedule for the premises is available.

(e) The facility has 2 single toilets cubicles and two wash hand basins available for the 22 preschool children. Nappy changing facilities are provided with an updated nappy changing policy in line with the Management of Infectious Diseases for Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings. Pedal operated bins are available for disposing of general waste and a sealed, lidded, and pedal operated bin for nappy disposal.

Hand washing and drying facilities are adequate and suitable. The hot water is thermostatically controlled at the recommended temperature of no more than

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

	<p>43°C. There is a supply of liquid soap and a paper towel dispenser/and dryer available to facilitate effective handwashing and drying.</p> <p>Separate adult toilet facilities are available for the staff members</p>
--	---

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:	<p>(1) The requirement has been met.</p> <p>The playroom measured 53.86 m² and there is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement of the children attending the preschool service.</p> <p>(2) A minimum of 1.818 m² of clear floor space is available for each child proposing to attend for sessional care and 2.3 m² for the children attending for part time care.</p>
-------------------------	---