

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Tusla I.D.:</b>	TU2024LS001
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<b>Name of Service</b>	Caterpillars Childcare Ballaghmore ELC
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	St. Molua's Church, Ballinla, Borris-in-Ossory, Co. Laois, R32RC52
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<b>Email Address:</b>	caterpillarschildcare@gmail.com
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Grainne Harte
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<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Sessional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Proposed change:</b>	Change in Number of Children Accommodated from 28 to 48. Change in Number of Staff Employed from 6 to 8.
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<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	48
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<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	Based on the floor space and sanitary accommodation available in the premises. Forty-eight children can be accommodated on various sessional, part time and full day care allocations.
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<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in Number of children that can be accommodated from 28 to 48. Change in Number of Staff Employed from 6 to 8.
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	1	7	0	7	2	0	2	4
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	K. Murphy
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
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<b>Rationale for Inspection:</b>
<b>Proposed Change of Circumstance</b>

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

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care Service for 48 Children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> July 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).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>Caterpillars Childcare Ballaghmore ELC is registered as a full day care service to accommodate children aged 0 to 6 years of age. The service operates between the hours of 07:30 and 18:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. The service is part of a multiple.</p> <p>An application was submitted by the registered provider to the Tusla registration office seeking registration for an additional twenty children to be accommodated on various sessional, part-time or full day care basis.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The Early Years' Service is located in a single-storey purposely adapted and renovated premises. Three pre-school rooms, a kitchen and a sleep room are provided. An outdoor play area is attached to the front of the premises. Onsite parking and set down facilities are available. The service is situated in a rural area in Ballaghmore, County Laois.</p> <p>A modular structured pre-school room has recently been attached to the existing premises to accommodate the proposed increase in the numbers of children that can attend the service.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	The co-owner facilitated the inspection.
<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 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>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-owner who was 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)

The service has a named designated person in charge with other named staff members able 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)

An adequate number of adults currently work directly with the children. Provision is in place to meet the necessary adult to child ratios for any additional children proposing to attend on various sessional, part time and full day care allocations.

### 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:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Suitable and adequate play and work equipment are provided indoors and outdoors which incorporate areas with toys and equipment for arts and crafts, home corners, interest areas, sensory and tabletop activities.

(b)

Soft furnishings provide suitable and adequate rest facilities in the proposed new pre-school room.

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(2)(a)

An outdoor area is attached to the front of the service which can be accessed directly via a door from the main corridor within the premises. A high-level wire fence secures the perimeter of the designated outdoor play area. A variety of stationary play equipment and outdoor toys are available.

### 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:**

The requirement has been met.

A separate kitchen is provided. A cook is employed to prepare meals for children attending on a full day care basis.

During term time parents provide the snacks for children attending on a sessional basis. Refrigerated storage facilities are available.

### 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.

Unauthorised access to the service and unsupervised exit of children from the service is controlled by parents taking children to the designated entrance lobby of the service for the pre-school service. The entrance door into the service is secure. A designated fire assembly point is located to the front of the premises.

### 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)

Adults qualified in first aid response (FAR) are rostered to be on duty during the hours of operation.

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(2)(a)(b)  
 A first aid box was stocked with sufficient supplies for the current and proposed number of additional children and located in a prominent location on the main corridor out of the reach of children.

### 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 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 written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The most recent fire drill was recorded as taking place on 9 July 2024.

(b)  
 A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. Records were available in respect of the firefighting equipment which was serviced in June 2024. A commissioning certificate was available in respect of the smoke alarms in the premises installed in December 2023.

(4)  
 A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the entrance hall and in the new pre-school room.

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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.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the registration team prior to this inspection. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

### 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 main premises which have been in existence for several years has been completely renovated. The premises and the recently added modular built pre-school room visually appear to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

An entrance lobby is in place with the main door to the pre-school service secured by a locked door and bell access.

(c)

In the proposed new pre-school room openable windows provide both natural light and ventilation. The light fittings were covered and fully operational to provide adequate artificial light to the pre-school room and the sanitary accommodation. Wall mounted thermostatically controlled radiators were in place. A maintenance contract is in place for the new pre-school room.

In the proposed occupied area, an environmental temperature of approximately 19 degrees Celsius was recorded. Wastewater and sewage are removed from the premises by means of a group water scheme. Potable drinking water is supplied to the premises by means of a group water scheme. Water testing documentation was available for review.

(d)

The floors and walls were in a good state of repair and maintenance. A cleaning schedule was available for the service and records were in place. A pest control system is in place. The most recent pest control maintenance took place in June 2024. Waste and refuse are removed daily to externally located and secure closed bins. A contractor for the collection of refuse bins has been engaged by the service to collect refuse from the premises on a scheduled basis.

(e)

In respect of twenty additional children that are proposed to be accommodated. The required additional facilities have been provided. These consist of one water closet and one wash hand basin which is provided in sanitary accommodation situated on the main corridor and not previously allocated. One additional water closet and one additional wash hand basin are now provided in sanitary accommodation located within the new modular pre-school building.

The sanitary accommodation area is ventilated by means of mechanical and natural ventilation in the form of openable windows.

The sanitary accommodation is stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towel. The wash hand basins are plumbed with an instantaneous supply of hot and cold water.

In separate sanitary facilities one water closet and one wash hand basin are designated for staff use.

### 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).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

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<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate floor space for the work, play and movement of children proposing to attend is available.</p> <p>(2) The new pre-school room located in the recently added modular structure with an area of approximately 38.281 m<sup>2</sup> in line with the floor plans submitted ensures that the minimum amount of clear floor space is available in respect of the proposed age range for up to 21 children to attend on a sessional basis or 16 children to attend on a part time or full day care basis.</p> <p>(4)(a)(b) As part of the proposed registered capacity, in a contemporaneous situation a minimum of 1.818 square metres is available for up to 21 children proposing to attend on a sessional, part time and full day care basis.</p>
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