

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024LS001

Name of Service: Caterpillars Childcare Ballaghmore ELC

Address of Service: Gaelscoil An Tslí Dála, Ballaghmore, Borris-in-Ossory, Co. Laois. R32 TN62

Email Address: caterpillarschildcare@gmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Grainne Harte

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

Proposed service type: Full Day Care

Proposed Number of Children: 29

Outcome of the F06 Inspection: Based on the floor space and sanitary accommodation currently available in the premises, 22 children can be accommodated on various sessional, part time and full day care allocations between the hours of 07:30 and 18:00.

Registered service: Registered Full Day Care Service for 22 Children

Date of Inspection:	0	2	0	2	2	0	2	4
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Inspection Undertaken by: K. Murphy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Full Day Care Service for 22 Children

Date of Registration: 9th February 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	<p>Caterpillars Childcare Ballaghmore is proposing to operate a full day care service between the hours of 07:30 and 18:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. This service would be part of a multiple operated by the proposed registered provider.</p> <p>An application was submitted by the proposed registered provider to the Tusla registration office seeking registration for a sessional, part-time and full day care service.</p>
Premises	<p>The Early Years' Service is proposing to operate in a single storey purposely adapted premises. Three pre-school rooms, a sleep room, sanitary accommodation and a kitchen are provided. An outdoor play area is attached to the side of the premises.</p> <p>Onsite parking and set down facilities are available. The service is rural in its location in the village of Ballaghmore, County Laois.</p>
Staffing	<p>On 2 February 2024, the proposed registered provider facilitated the inspection.</p>
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	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the proposed registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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 proposed service has made provision for a named designated person in charge with other named staff members able to deputise as required.
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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 will work directly with the children. Provision is in place to meet the necessary adult to child ratios for children proposing to attend on various sessional, part time and full day care allocations.
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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)
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	<p>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.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>Soft furnishings provide suitable and adequate rest facilities in each pre-school room. A separate sleep room is available and equipped with four cots with two additional cots available in the premises if required. Low level beds are in place to accommodate the sleep needs of children aged 2-3 years.</p> <p>(2)(a)</p> <p>An outdoor area is attached to the side 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.</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 separate kitchen is provided. A cook is to be employed to prepare meals for children proposing to attend on a full day care basis.

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

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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.

Unauthorised access to the service and unsupervised exit of children from the service is to be 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. Fire safe restrictive opening devices are in place on all windows. 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)

Evidence was available which confirmed that the proposed registered provider and the staff member proposing to be the person in charge in the service had completed First Aid Response (FAR) training.

(2)(a)(b)

A first aid box was stocked with sufficient supplies for the number of children proposing to attend and located in prominent location on the main corridor out of the reach of children.

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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)

Provision has been made to carry out and record monthly fire drills in the proposed pre-school service.

(b)

Records were available for the service in respect of firefighting equipment which was installed in January 2024. A commissioning certificate was available in respect of the smoke alarms in the premises installed in December 2023.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be following in the event of a fire was displayed in various locations throughout the premises.

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.

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children proposing to attend the service. The expiry date noted as 27 March 2024.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

(a)

The main premises which have been in existence for several years has been completely renovated. The premises visually appears 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)

Openable windows provide both natural light and ventilation throughout the service. Wall vents are provided throughout the premises. The light fittings were covered and fully operational to provide adequate artificial light to the pre-school rooms, the sleep room and the sanitary accommodation. High- and low-level wall mounted thermostatically controlled radiators are in place throughout the service. Records indicated that the oil-fired central heating system was serviced recently. In the proposed occupied areas, an environmental temperature of approximately 18 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 is 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. Waste and refuse are removed on a daily basis to externally located 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-two children that can be accommodated.

For older children one water closet and one wash hand basin has been provided in sanitary accommodation situated on the main corridor.

For younger children one nappy changing unit and one wash hand basin has been provided in sanitary accommodation situated on the main corridor.

This is an interim measure until additional appropriate sanitary accommodation is provided within the premises to cater for any future increase in numbers.

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

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

In separate sanitary facilities located in the school age childcare service provided in the adjacent national school one water closet and one wash hand basin are currently designated for staff use. This is an interim measure until appropriate sanitary accommodation is provided within the premises for staff.

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.*

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(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).

Requirement met:	<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 pre-school rooms with an area of approximately 67 m² 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 22 children to attend on various sessional, part time and full day care allocations. Sufficient floor space is available for an additional 6 children to attend when additional sanitary accommodated is provided.</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 22 children proposing to attend on a sessional, part time and full day care basis.</p>
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