

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2024TY001

Name of Service Abc Pre-school Scoil Ailbhe

Address of Service: Parnell Street,
Friar St.
Thurles,
Co Tipperary,
E41 XY10

Email Address: norahcommins@hotmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Norah Commins

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

Proposed change:	Additional room and an increase in the number of children from 24 to 35.
Proposed Number of Children:	35
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Room to be added an increase in numbers to 35 also granted.
Registered change:	Change in number of children from 24 to 35.

Date of Inspection: 2 6 0 8 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: Antoinette McNamara
Title: Early Years Inspector

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Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
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Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care for 35 children.
Date of Registration	09.09.2025

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	This full day care service was established in August 2024 to provide care and education to children aged between 3 and 6 years old. A registered school age care service is also provided. The service operates Monday to Friday, 08:00 to 17:00 for 38 weeks of the year. This includes a daily three-hour session which operates between 09:00 and 12:00 and is funded under the early childhood care and education scheme (ECCE) for eligible children.
Premises	Both the pre-school and school age care services are operated from rooms in Scoil Ailbhe national school in the town of Thurles Co Tipperary. There is one room dedicated to the pre-school service and a second room that is used by the school age care service in the afternoon. The children also have access to the school hall and library. There is an enclosed outdoor play area outside the pre-school room to which the children in the service have exclusive access. They also have access to the rest of the school grounds, when not being used by the school children, including a playground at the front of the premises, playing pitches, walking track and wilderness area. This is a sister service to ABC Pre-school in Friar Street, Thurles. The service is proposing to add an additional room to cater for more pre-school children.

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Staffing	The registered provider does not work directly in the service daily but is available to call when required. The registered provider was present on the day of inspection to facilitate the inspection. The person in charge is present daily along with four other staff, who work directly with the children each day. All staff who work in the service hold recognized qualifications in early childhood care and education at levels 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.
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 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:

The requirement has been met. The registered provider has an appointed person in charge in the service.

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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. The registered provider is familiar with the Child Care Act 1991 (early years services) Regulations 2016, Schedule 6 Adult: Child ratios and will ensure that there are always adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service. The registered provider is familiar with the requirement to have two staff present when registered and operating as a full day care.

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—

- (b) 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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1)(a) The new playroom provided sufficient space. The room was set up with toys and equipment suitable for the number, age, and stage of development of the children who will attend the service.
- (b) There was a rest area available to the children. Floor beds were also available.
- (2) Children had access to a school playground.

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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 kitchen area is available for the staff in the room. The registered provider has advised parents that two snacks are required for children attending on a part time basis, Full day care children will also require a hot meal to be provided. The registered provider will have additional snacks available on the premises in the event that a child has forgotten their food.

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.

Infection control:

There was warm running water throughout the service. There were designated children's toilets available.

Administration of medication:

There was a policy on the safe administration of medications to children attending the service.

General safety:

The pre-school was within a National school. The classroom door had to be opened by a staff member.

Safe sleep:

The service has a safe sleep policy in place.

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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) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that staff were currently trained in FAR first aid for children and will always be present on the premises.
 - (2)(a) A suitable and fully equipped first aid box was available.
 - (b) First aid box was stored in an easily accessible place.

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) The registered provider was familiar with the requirement to conduct monthly fire drills.
 - (b) Fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms were present, and contracts are in place for the regular service and maintenance of same.
 - (4) A notice of procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the playrooms and the fire assembly point was clearly identified.

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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 certificate to demonstrate that insurance was in place was available.

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 premises and outdoor spaces appear to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) There were adequate measures in place to ensure children could not leave unsupervised and unauthorized people could not enter.

(c) The playroom was lit and ventilated by natural light through openable windows on external walls, supplemented by artificial lighting when needed. All sanitary accommodation had ventilation.

The heating system consisted of radiators which could be thermostatically controlled so that the surface temperature of the radiators in each room does not exceed 50°C.

(d) The premises were clean, well maintained and in good repair. A cleaning policy and schedule was available for the service.

(e) The service had adequate sanitary accommodation for the number of children and staff who will be present in the service at any one-time.

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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.*
- (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.

The proposed room was measured during the inspection.

(1) There is adequate clear floor space available to accommodate the numbers of children who will attend. The room measured 6.62m x 5.85m totaling an area of 38.73msq.

(2) The playroom was spacious and bright with ample clear floor space for the number of children who will attend the service.