

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2024TY001

Name of Service: ABC Preschool Scoil Ailbhe

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

Email Address: norahcommins@hotmail.com

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Norah Commins

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed service type: Sessional, Part-time and Full day care

Proposed Number of Children: 24

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)
The service proposes to offer sessional, part-time and full day care provision for children aged 3 – 6 years old, between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year plus summer camps during the summer months. The service will cater for a maximum of 24 children at any one time.

Registered service: Registered Full Day, Part time, Sessional Service 24 children.

Date of Inspection: 0 7 0 8 2 0 2 4

Inspection Undertaken by: L McGeeney

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: North Tipperary Civic Offices, Limerick Road,
Nenagh, Co. Tipperary

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status: Registered Full Day, Part time, Sessional Service 24 children.

Date of Registration: 04th September 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>The proposed service will provide care and education to children aged between 3 and 6 years old on a sessional, part-time or full day care basis. The service proposes to cater for a maximum of 24 children at any one time. A registered school aged care service is also provided by the registered provider in the same premises.</p> <p>It is proposed that the service will operate between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year, in line with the school year and offer summer camps during the summer months.</p> <p>This will be the second service operated by the registered provider, the other being ABC Preschool, Friar Street, Thurles.</p>
Premises	<p>The proposed service will be operated from a room in a primary school in the town of Thurles in north Tipperary. The early years room is on the ground floor of the two-storey, detached premises. The children will also have access to the school hall and to the room used by the school aged care service. The other facilities that will be available to the children include sanitary accommodation and outdoor play areas in the school grounds.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider will not work in the service on a daily basis but will be available to call on when required. The service manager will be the person in charge on a daily basis.</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 cooperation 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) There was a proposed person in charge and a named person who could deputise in their absence.

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.
(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—
(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) It is proposed that there will be between two and three staff working directly with the children at any one time. The minimum adult to child ratio of 1 to 11 will be maintained while the sessional service is in operation in the morning, after which the adult to child ratio will increase to 1 to 8.

(8)(a) It is proposed that there will be at least two staff present at all times while the service is in operation.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The proposed service will be operated from a large bright room in a primary school. The children will also have access to the school hall for physical activity indoors and to outdoor play facilities in the school grounds. The children who attend on a part-time or full day care basis will have access to the school aged care room as a dining room.

The activity room was laid out in a number of defined interest areas including a library and relaxation area, table-top activities area, imaginative play areas such as the home corner, shop and dress-up areas, construction area and small world areas.

(b) There was a cosy corner with a wooden frame and canopy over it where the children could rest and relax during the day as required. Children who required a sleep during the day could use the available sleep mats and blankets in the cosy area.

(2)(a) It is proposed that the children will have access to several outdoor play spaces within the grounds of the school. The main area to be used by the children was located directly outside the side door, which will be the entrance/exit point for the service. This area was secured to the front by the side entrance gate and to the back by a low partition fence and gate which had been installed to separate this play space from the rest of the school yard. The sides of the area were secured by walls. This

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space had a tarmacadam surface and was equipped with toys and materials such as balls, sand and water tables, blackboards and playhouses.

The children will also have access to the main yards of the school and to the school playing fields when not in use by the school 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:

This requirement has been met.

The service has a healthy eating policy. Food eaten by the children will consist of lunches and snacks provided by the children’s parents and breakfasts, dinners and additional snack foods provided by the service. It is proposed that dinner will be a hot meal, prepared in the sister service in Friar Street and transported to the service each day. The room used by the school aged care service had a kitchenette with a stand sized fridge, stove, oven, sink and storage cupboards. This room would be used by the early years service as a dining room for breakfast and dinner.

There was drinkable water available from the taps in both the activity room and the school aged service room.

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:

This requirement has been met.

General Safety

The school building had several access points in addition to the main front door. Staff, children and visitors to the early years service will use a side entrance door on the left side of the premises, close to the early years room. All access points to the school building will be kept secured while the service is in operation to prevent any unauthorised access to the premises.

The gates at either side of the premises will be secured after children and staff have arrived in the morning to prevent unauthorised access to the school grounds and to prevent the children from gaining unsupervised access to the front of the school and the roadway beyond.

Hot water for hand washing was heated by electric water heaters, thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C.

Infection Control

There was an infection control policy for the service and a cleaning policy. A sink had been installed in the corner of the room to facilitate hand washing as required during the day.

Administration of Medication

There was a policy regarding the administration of medication to children attending the service. Consent forms were available for parents to sign before staff administered any medication to a child.

Fire Safety

Fire escape routes were clear of obstruction.

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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:

- (1) It was proposed that there would be at least one member of staff present in the service at all times while it was in operation who held current certification in first aid response (FAR).
- (2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available in the school aged care room/dining room where it could be easily accessed when required.
- (b) The first aid box was available if required by a child attending the 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:

- This requirement has been met.
- (1)(a) There was a template available to record the monthly fire-drills that took place in the service.
- (b) There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service.
- (4) There was a notice on the wall of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

The service has insurance cover for up to 50 children attending a full day care service valid from 26th August 2024 to 27th March 2025.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(a) The premises appeared to be sound and stable. The building was recently renovated and upgraded to comply with fire safety requirements.

(b) The premises in which the service was proposed to be carried out was safe and secure. The premises was kept secured and access to the premises was monitored by staff. Non-slip, easy to clean, vinyl flooring was recently fitted in the early years room, sanitary accommodation areas and corridors as part of the recent refurbishment of the premises.

(c) The room was light with natural light through the large, openable windows along one wall of the room. These also allowed for natural ventilation of the room. The school aged care room/ dining room and sanitary accommodation areas also benefitted from natural light and ventilation. Artificial lighting was available to supplement natural light when required. The premises was heated by an oil-fired central heating system via wall mounted radiators. An additional radiator had been

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installed in the early years room as part of the refurbishment and upgrading of the premises.

(d) The room had been replastered and freshly painted, had new flooring fitted and a sink with hot and cold running water had been installed in one corner. All of the equipment and materials were purchased specifically for the new service and recently set up in the room.

(e) The sanitary accommodation area for the early years service was beside the early years room. This area was newly developed and contained seven child-sized toilets in a block of cubicles, two of which were designated for use by the early years children while the others were shared with the school. There were six wash hand basins with hot and cold running water for hygienic hand washing. There was a separate room, accessible from within the sanitary accommodation area with a wheelchair accessible toilet, a height adjustable nappy changing table and two hand washing sinks available to the service if required. Staff sanitary accommodation was shared with school staff. There was sufficient sanitary accommodation for the proposed numbers of children and staff that would be present in the service.

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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.*
- (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).*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) The room proposed for use by the early years service measured 55.245m². The minimum space requirement for up to 22 children attending on a sessional basis was 1.818m² per child or 40m², which was available in the room. The minimum space requirement for up to 24 children attending on a part-time or full day care basis was 2.3m² per child or 55.2m², which was the limit of the room.

(2)(3)(4) The service had sufficient clear floor space for the type of service proposed to be provided.