

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2025DR001

Name of Service: Links Childcare Kiltiernan

Address of Service: Kiltiernan Wood, Kiltiernan, Dublin.

Email Address: gillian@linkschildcare.ie

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Gillian Kelly

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

Proposed service type: Proposed new full day care service

Proposed Number of Children: The service is proposing to cater for 102 children.

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)

- The service can accommodate 102 children who attend on a sessional basis only (maximum of 3.5 hours).
- Where children attend on a full day or part-time basis this number will be reduced to 92.
- The number of children attending each room must be in accordance with those outlined under Regulation 30.
- The service is proposing to operate from 7:30am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday 12 months of the year.

Registered service: Registered Full Day Care/Part Time (92 Children)
Sessional Service (102 Children)

Date of Inspection: 0 6 1 2 2 0 2 4

Inspection Undertaken by: Sarah Quigley

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla – Child & Family Agency, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Bray, Co Wicklow.

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care/Part Time (92 Children) Sessional Service (102 Children)
Date of Registration:	3 rd January 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	The proposed private childcare facility aims to provide sessional, part-time and full day care for pre-school children aged one to six years of age. The proposed hours of operation are between 07:30hrs and 18:00hrs and the service propose to accommodate a maximum number of 92 children attending on a full day care or part time basis or 102 on a sessional basis.
Premises	The premises are located within a new mixed housing development in a residential area of Kiltarnan, South County Dublin. It is a purpose-built facility with six care rooms. There are two enclosed outdoor space to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	The registered provider has appointed a manager for the service and a named person to deputise as required. Initially there will be five adults working with pre-school children alongside the service manager and deputy. Adults employed to work with children have attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.
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	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the area manager present on the day of the inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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 registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—
(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and
(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.
(1) The registered provider has stated that there will be an adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service. Five adults are available to work initially in the service to ensure the required adult to child ratio is maintained; a number of these adults are currently employed in another service operated as part of this company.

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.
- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph applies, shall ensure that—
- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or
 - (b) where no such space is provided, the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.
- (4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.
- (5) Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph (4), the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service comprises of six care rooms. The rooms are bright and spacious and well laid out to cater for the age range of children which are proposed to attend each room.

(1)(b) Sleep mats are provided for children over two years of age and suitable rest areas are provided in each pre-school room. Foldable cots and suitable low-level beds with fitted mattresses are available for children aged under two years.

(2)(a) There are two outdoor play areas provided on the premises. The areas are secured by an appropriate perimeter fencing. There were no hazards identified in the outdoor area.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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 service stated they will be employing a cook for the service and there are facilities available for the provision of adequate food and drink for children, including the provision of a hot meal. The area manager stated the relevant health authority regarding the preparation of food on the premises had been notified.

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.
External doors will be secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. A fingerprint recognition system will be in operation for access to the service by authorised adults. The gate in the large outdoor area is suitably secured. All window blind cords are secured. There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins in sanitary areas. Cleaning schedules are in place.

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) The person in charge and one additional staff member have current certification in first aid responder (FAR) training for children.

(2)(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes are provided in the service. They are clearly identifiable and readily accessible.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The area manager has indicated that fire drills will be carried out when the service is operational.

(1)(b) There is a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment and for the commissioning of the fire detection and alarm system.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed conspicuously throughout the premises. The fire assembly point is identified.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

Evidence of insurance has been submitted to the registration office.

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 service is located in a single storey purpose-built facility.

(b) There is one point of entry to the childcare service. The main door which allows access directly into the service will be controlled by a fingerprint recognition system for authorised adults. The outdoor areas are secured to prevent a child leaving the area unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the areas.

(c) The premises benefits from high levels of natural light via large windows in each room. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from covered ceiling lights

in the rooms and hallways. Blinds are fitted in each of the care rooms. There is an air to water heating system in place which monitors and controls the room temperatures at the required range. Large doors in each of the care rooms can be opened as windows to provide natural ventilation; mechanical ventilation is also provided in the sanitary areas and the care rooms.

(d) Cleaning schedules are in place and the premises, and its environs were clean and well maintained.

(e) Sanitary facilities have been provided in the service. There are six toilets and six wash hand basins designated for children’s use. There are five nappy changing units with wash hand basins also available. Two toilets and two wash hand basins have been provided for adults, with a separate facility for adults and children with a disability. Sinks are also available in the care rooms. Thermostatically controlled hot water is available and did not exceed 43°C.

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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.
(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children attending the service as demonstrated below:

Room	Clear floor space	Proposed age range	Max number of children
Seahorse	42.6sqm	3 - 6 years	18 full day care(FDC) 23 (Sessional)
Starfish	42.2sqm	3 – 6 years	18 (FDC) 23 (Sessional)

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Sealion	45.9sqm	2 – 3 years	19 (FDC)
Dolphin	31.3sqm	2 – 3 years	13 (FDC)
Octopus	33.6sqm	1 – 2 years	12 (FDC)
Otter	30sqm	2 – 3 years	12 (FDC)

(2) The premises was designed to ensure that the required floor space for a maximum number of 92 pre-school children in the proposed age ranges attending on a full day care or part time basis or 102 children attending on a sessional basis was met.