

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2025DR002
-------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Giraffe Childcare
-------------------------	-------------------

Address of Service:	Moonstone The Grange Brewery Road Stillorgan, A94P5H2
----------------------------	---

Email Address:	dcg@giraffe.ie
-----------------------	----------------

Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Dearbhala Cox Giffin
--	----------------------

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:	Full Day Care
Proposed Number of Children:	The proposal is for children in the 0–6-year age range to be accommodated. It is proposed that the service will be open all year with the exception of 4 days closure at Christmas and all public holidays. The hours of operation are from 8am to 6pm five days a week. The service proposed to accommodate 122 children. However, condition 7 in the fire certificate states-
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	“The first-floor home base 4,6,7 and 8 shall not be occupied by sleeping children or infants” on the basis of the travel distance limitations. To meet the requirement of condition 7 in the fire certificate the overall maximum capacity for the centre will be 86

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

	children on a full day care basis. The number of children attending each room must be in accordance with those specified in column (3) of schedule 7 under Regulation 30.
Registered service:	Registered Full Day Care 86 children.

Dates of Inspection:	17/12/2024
	06/01/2025

Inspection Undertaken by:	Olivia Quill and Sarah Quigley
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Tusla – Child & Family Agency Loughlinstown Health Centre Loughlinstown drive County Dublin A96P3Y6
--	---

Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care 86 children
Date of Registration:	13 th January 2025

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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	Giraffe Childcare facility is privately operated and aims to provide full day care for children aged 0 - 6 years old. The provider currently has twenty-four registered services The proposed hours of operation are from 8am to 6pm for 51 weeks of the year.
Premises	The premises has been purposefully adapted to accommodate a childcare facility. The early years service is located in a three-storey premises within an apartment complex in an urban area of Stillorgan south county Dublin. There are six care rooms, two separate cot rooms provided on the ground floor and a designated sleep room on the ground and first floor. The service has a catering kitchen, office and staff room available. Two care rooms catering for the younger children are located on the ground floor and four care rooms are located on the first floor. Two separate enclosed outdoor spaces are available on the premises. One on the ground floor and the second is a roof terrace which will be used by older children.
Staffing	The provider has appointed a manager and deputy manager for the service. Eight adults have been recruited initially until numbers increase. A chef and cleaner have been employed to work in the service.
Methodology	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. The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

	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.
Acknowledgement	The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the provider, area manager, designated manager and deputy manager who were present on the days 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. (1)(a) The provider has ensured that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise when 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 number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The proposed provider has stated that there will be adequate number of adults working with the children attending the service. Ten adults including the manager and deputy manager are available to work in the service to ensure the required adult to child ratio is maintained.

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) The provider proposes to allocate the children to one of six pre-school rooms according to their age and stage of development. The rooms were bright and laid out with a variety of equipment to cater for the play needs of the children. The equipment

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

was visible and easily accessible to the children. Appropriately sized furniture was available for table-top activities.

(1)(b) Two cot rooms with a total of eighteen standard cots was provided on the ground floor. Two separate sleep rooms equipped with suitable low-level beds were available on the ground floor and on the first floor to accommodate older children to sleep and rest. Suitable rest areas with soft furnishings are provided in each room.

(2)(a) Two enclosed outdoor spaces were provided on the premises. The outdoor area on the ground floor was secured and had a shock absorbing surface. The second outdoor space was the roof terrace which was secure and had an artificial grass surface. The provider stated this area will be used by older children. Both outdoor areas had a good variety of suitable play equipment and materials including fixed equipment, messy play tables and ride-on toys. Suitable seating was available for children to rest. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor areas.

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 requirement has been met.

A Healthy Eating Policy is available and the service provides the children’s meals. A cook has been employed by the service to prepare the food served. A sample four-week menu plan was on display in the service. The provider has notified the relevant health authority regarding the preparation of food on the premises.

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 are secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. A keypad access system is in place for authorised adults. The outdoor area is safely secured.

All window blind cords were secured and windows have been fitted with fire-safe restrictors. In the care rooms suitable locks were fitted on low level shelving making storage areas inaccessible to children. Emergency exits were clear and the location of the fire assembly point was marked.

The premises and equipment were in good condition. Cleaning schedules were in place for all rooms and facilities. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and wall mounted paper hand towel dispensers were available in the sanitary accommodation for hand washing and drying. Pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service for the hygienic disposal of waste.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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 proposed manager and deputy manager have current certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a) and (b) First aid boxes were suitably equipped and stored in readily accessible and conspicuous positions in the service, available at all times for the children if necessary.

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 designated person in charge has indicated that fire drills will be carried out.

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

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed conspicuously throughout the service.

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.

Evidence of insurance was available and valid from the 01 June 2024 until the 31 May 2025. Registration of the service is contingent on the provider's 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 premises had been purposely built and visually appeared in good state of repair.

(b) The entrance to the service was secured a keypad system was in place to allow only authorised access. The outdoor area was secured to prevent a child leaving the area unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.

(c) The preschool rooms had a good source of natural light. This could be supplemented with built-in ceiling lighting. An air to water heating system was used by the service. All care and sleep rooms were fitted with air conditioning units allowing the temperature to be regulated accordingly. The ambient temperature of the pre-school rooms was recorded between 19.7 and 22°C. The ambient temperature of the cot room could be controlled to remain between 16 and 20°C. In the care rooms ventilation was by means of windows, doors and mechanical ventilation. Sanitary areas had a mechanical ventilation system.

(d) The premises were in good condition and cleaning schedules were in place. The service was equipped with new furniture and equipment which appeared to be in good working order. A system was in place to maintain a record of cleaning completed.

(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities have been provided. There are seven toilets and seven wash hand basins designated for children's use. There are seven nappy changing units with wash hand basins also available. Three toilets and wash hand basins have been provided for adults.

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:

(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated.

(2) **Room 3 and room 5 have been allocated as sleep rooms.**

Room	Room 1	Room 2	Room 4	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8
Clear floor space available	45.8 sqm	42 sqm	31 sqm	48.8 sqm	35.3 sqm	40 sqm

To meet the requirements of condition 7 on the fire certificate- The overall maximum capacity the centre can accommodate is 86 children on a full day care basis. The number of children attending each room must be in accordance with those specified in column (3) of schedule 7 under Regulation 30.