

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2025MH001
Name of Service:	Tots Creche Ruxton Oaks
Address of Service:	Ruxton Oaks, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 NW2N
Email Address:	ruxtonoaks@tots.ie
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Annette Akerlind & Audrey Murray

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

Proposed service type:	Full day care, part time, sessional for 74 preschool children
Proposed Number of Children:	74
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	The provider proposes to accommodate 74 children aged 0 to 6 years on a full-day-care, part time and sessional basis. The provider proposes to operate between 7:00am and 6:30pm Monday to Friday.
Registered service:	Full Daycare, Part Time and Sessional service for 74 Children

Date of Inspection:	3	0	0	6	2	0	2	5
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Inspection Undertaken by:	AM Cunningham
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road Navan, Co. Meath
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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Daycare, Part Time and Sessional service for 74 Children
Date of Registration:	07/07/2025

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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	Tots Creche is a proposed private full-day, part-time and sessional service located within a residential housing estate in Navan, Co Meath. The proposed providers intend to operate the service from 7.00am to 6.30pm each weekday and accommodate a maximum of 74 preschool children aged 0 to 6 years. This service is one of 12 services operated by the registered providers.
Premises	The two-storey purpose-built building comprises of, on the ground floor an entrance hall, office, 3 care rooms, sleep room, a storage room, sanitary accommodation for children including three nappy changing stations, staff and an accessible toilet. On the first floor a kitchen and sanitary accommodation for children including a nappy changing station, three care rooms, staff room, staff toilet and laundry room. The building also contains several storage areas. An outdoor play area is available located to the rear of the property with direct access from the premises. Off road parking is provided at the front of the building.
Staffing	The service will be initially staffed by 17 staff which consists of a manager, assistant manager, a cook, a staff member to cover lunches, and 13 childcare practitioners to work directly with the children. The registered providers will not be onsite daily but available to staff when required, they have employed an operations manager and area manager who they stated will also support staff. All childcare staff will have a qualification at a minimum level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education 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 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 proposed Registered Provider, Operations Manager and Area Manager who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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) A manager is employed to work in the service on a full-time basis. An additional staff member is proposed to deputise in the absence of this person.

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) A total of 17 staff will initially be employed which consists of a manager, assistant manager, a cook, a staff member to cover lunches, and 13 childcare practitioners to work directly with the children.

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) All of the care rooms are bright, and the walls are decorated with colourful sensory boards. All care rooms are fully equipped with a range of play materials and equipment suitable to the age and stage of the children attending each room. Low level furniture and shelving were available containing materials for creative and imaginative play and to facilitate children to select and replace items of interest independently. Designated interest areas were well developed and enhanced including a home corner, sand play, construction area, dress up clothes and dressing table, puzzle areas, hydration stations, and small world play accessible to the children at their level. A rest area with books was available in each care room.

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(b) A separate sleep room was provided equipped with 6 cots. Stackable beds were available for children over 2 years of age attending on a full day care basis who required sleep or rest. All care rooms had suitable and comfortable rest areas available which contained soft matting, seating and cushions.

(2) (a) An outdoor area was available located to the rear of the premises. The outdoor area was well developed and equipment available included a sand pit within a boat, planters, sand and water trays, tables for children to sit at and play on, mud kitchen, ride on toys, and balance boards. Impact absorbing surfacing covered the entire ground of the outdoor area. A perimeter wall surrounded the outdoor areas and gates which led to an area outside of the premises at each end of the building contained a high-level lock which only allowed authorised people gain access or leave the premises.

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 kitchen is available for the preparation and provision of food and drinks for children. The proposed registered providers has employed a chef to work in the service, a four-week rolling varied and nutritious menu will be in place which contains two meals, a minimum of one of which will be hot, and a snack will be provided daily for children attending on a full day care basis. Breakfast will also be provided. Children attending the ECCE service on a sessional basis will bring in their own lunch from home. Children will take in their own drink bottles and the service will provide water and milk with meals.

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.

External doors will be secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The two gates in the outdoor areas were suitably secured with high level locks. The emergency exit doors were unobstructed. There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins throughout the service. Cleaning schedules are in place. Cleaning materials were stored safely. The kitchen was inaccessible to children

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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) The registered provider ensures that a staff member trained in first aid is available to children at all times.

(2) A first aid box is available and accessible in the pre-school rooms.

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:

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

(1)(b) There was a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment. A service took place in May 2025. The fire detection system was last serviced on 25 April 2025.

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

Insurance is in place for the preschool children which covers a maximum of 92 children and expires on the 27/03/26.

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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 service is a purpose-built building located in a residential development. The interior walls, floors and ceilings of the rooms in use by the service appeared in a good state of repair and maintenance. Windows in the care rooms appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and were both positioned and opened above child height. There was no evidence of dampness or mould growth on internal walls and ceilings.

(b) The service was adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry.

(c) The service was adequately lit and heated. The lighting was provided by natural light from openable windows supplemented with ceiling light fittings with covers. The heating system for the premises was air to water and the room temperatures were maintained between 18-22°C. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water was available in all hand wash sinks. Ventilation was by means of openable windows and air conditioning in the care rooms and mechanical ventilation and openable windows in the sanitary accommodation.

(d) Cleaning schedules were in place and the premises was maintained in a clean condition.

(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation is provided within the service i.e. 12 toilets and 12 hand basins. The sanitary accommodation adjoins the care rooms. Two staff toilets are available within the service. The sanitary area has a supply of liquid soap and a wall mounted paper towel. There are four nappy changing stations available.

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) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—
 - (a) a sessional pre-school service, and

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(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:

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:

(2)

Room	Baby Room	Wobbler Room	Toddler Room	Preschool Full Daycare Room	Toddler Preschool Room	Preschool Afterschool Room
Clear Floor Space	34m ² .	31.2m ²	33 m ²	39 m ²	28m ²	31m ²
Proposed Age Range	0-18months	12months – 2 years	18months- 2 years	2 years 8 months -5 years	2 years 6 months – 5 years	2 years 8 months – 5 years

The premises can accommodate a proposed number of 74 pre-school children

(3) The registered provider proposes to have a maximum of 74 children attending a combination of sessional, part-time and full care basis at any one time.