

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D: TU2025WH001

Name of Service: Tots Creche and Daycare

Address of Service: 6 Farranshock Park, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, N91 PY6N

Email Address: farranshock@tots.ie

Name of Proposed Registered Provider: Annette Akerlind, Audrey Murray

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

Proposed service type: Full Day Care

Proposed Number of Children: 95

Outcome of the F06 Inspection
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)
A maximum number of 95 children, 0 - 6 years of age, as proposed by the registered providers, may be accommodated.

Registered service: Registered Full Day Care, Part Time and Sessional service for 95 children

Date of Inspection: 2 9 0 5 2 0 2 5

Inspection Undertaken by: T. Duignan

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office,
St Loman's Campus, Springfield,
Mullingar,
Co Westmeath,
N91 N4XC.

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care, Part Time and Sessional service for 95 children
Date of Registration:	06/06/2025

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 full day, part-time and sessional care to children from 0-6 years of age. The service is proposing to accommodate 95 children. The proposed hours of operation are from 07.00am to 18.30 hours for 51 weeks of the year.
Premises	The proposed premises is a purpose-built facility located in a housing development on the outskirts of Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. There are six care rooms however one care room is being used as one of the two cot rooms, a kitchen, office, staff room, laundry facilities, sanitary facilities and storage space provided. There is an enclosed outdoor space at the rear of the premises.
Staffing	The proposed registered providers have appointed a manager for the service and a designated person to deputise as required. It is proposed that fifteen childcare staff and one chef will commence working in the service when it opens. The proposed childcare staff working directly with the pre-school children will hold qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.
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

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	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 Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered providers, and the area managers who were 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. (1) (a) There is a designated person in charge and a named person is available to deputise as required.
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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.

(1) The proposed registered provider has stated that there will be an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

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 service comprises of five care rooms and a care room currently being used as a cot room, all of which are bright and spacious. They are located on the ground floor off the main entrance lobby. The care rooms have been constructively planned and presented to cater for the needs of the children in each room. Each care room has a variety of age-appropriate toys and learning equipment available at an accessible height to facilitate a child-led learning environment. There are clearly defined areas of interest including home corners, construction areas, dress up, sensory play, small world

and rest areas with libraries. A variety of play and learning materials included puzzles, jigsaws, interconnecting manipulative equipment, blocks, cars, dolls and an assortment of props for the interest areas. The Baby, Wobbler and Toddler rooms were equipped with interactive toys, push/pull equipment, shape sorters and stacking toys, sensorial equipment, wooden jigsaws and puzzles and a variety of suitable art and craft materials to cater for the younger age groups.

The proposed outdoor play area is equipped with a wooden playhouse, sand and water tables, slides, child sized tables and chairs, a mud kitchen, and a variety of trikes, scooters and ride on toys.

(b) Two cot rooms with seventeen standard cots are provided for any child less than two years of age requiring sleep. A floor bed is available for any child aged under 2 years who does not sleep in a cot. Stackable beds are available for children over 2 years of age requiring a period of sleep when attending on a full day or part time basis.

Suitable rest areas with child sized comfortable seating and large wipeable floor mats are provided in each care room.

(2)

(a) A large spacious outdoor play area is covered in outdoor grass carpet to enable use throughout the year and is provided to the rear of the premises. There is plenty of space for the children to run freely and enjoy playground games.

The perimeter area at the rear of the premises is enclosed by a high wall. The two high level gates to the side are secured with an electromagnetic system with entry to the outdoor area by keypad and a press button system to exit. Both are out of the reach of children.

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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 is met.

A healthy eating policy is in place in the service. A cook is employed to prepare food daily and a four-week menu is available. Drinking water is available in the service and will be available at all times for the children.

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.

Access to the pre-school service is electronically controlled by staff at the main entrance to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The outdoor area is suitably secured with a perimeter wall and two secured gates at both entrances to the outdoor area. Visibility stickers are in place on the full-length glass doors and windows. All cupboards are fitted with safety catches.

There is sufficient storage space in the premises for cleaning materials and equipment, arts and crafts resources for the service, sleep equipment and a wooden storage unit in the outdoor area for overnight storage of toys and equipment. Each care room has a work surface with two cupboards and wall mounted cubby units for additional storage. All emergency exits are clear.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper towels are available in the sanitary and nappy changing accommodation for hygienic hand washing and drying. Paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted dispensers are available at the sinks in the sanitary areas.

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Foot pedal operated bins are located in the sanitary areas for the disposal of used nappies and in each care room for the hygienic and safe disposal of used paper hand towel, tissues and waste.

A refrigerator is provided in each care room.

A pest control contract is in place for the premises.

The premises is maintained in a clean and hygienic condition and detailed cleaning schedules are in place for all room environments.

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) Current certification in relation to First Aid Response (FAR) training, is available for four staff members.

(2)

(a)(b) Three suitably equipped first aid boxes are easily available and accessible to children at all times and are placed in conspicuous positions throughout the service.

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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) Documentation is available to record monthly fire drills.

(b) The firefighting equipment has been recently installed and dated April 2025, and the fire/smoke alarm system has been commissioned with supporting documentation dated 15 April 2025.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire is displayed conspicuously in each care room and the fire assembly points are identified.

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.

The registered providers must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the service. Registration of the service is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

An insurance certificate is available indicating cover for 97 children attending a full day care service. The insurance certificate expires on 5 March 2026.

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:

- (a) The proposed premises has been recently built and decorated and visually is in a state of good repair.
- (b) The entrance/exit doors to the premises and gates to the outdoor area are electronically secured and will be controlled by staff to prevent unauthorised access to the service and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. The outdoor play area is surrounded by a high perimeter wall and two high level gates.
- (c) The premises benefits from high levels of natural light via large windows and glass doors in the care rooms. There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from recessed square ceiling lights with protective covers in each care room. Window coverings are in place in the cot room to support a dimmed environment for the comfort of sleeping children in room 3.
 There are openable windows and doors in each care room. A mechanical extraction/ventilation system has been installed for the simultaneous ventilation of the sanitary and nappy changing areas.
 An integrated air management system provides air-conditioning and/or heat to all care rooms and the sleep rooms. This system can be regulated by the staff members from wall mounted control panels in each care room. Environmental room temperatures were maintained between the recommended 18-22°Celsius and between 16-20°Celsius in the sleep room for children ages 0-1 year.
- (d) Daily cleaning schedules are in place for all care room environments and sanitary areas.
- (e) There are adequate sanitary facilities in the service.

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- Two toilets and two wash hand basins are provided for children's use in the sanitary area located in five of the six proposed care rooms and one toilet and one wash hand basin in room 3 currently being used as a second sleep room.
 - Four wall mounted pull down nappy changing units and four wash hand basins are provided in the sanitary area between the proposed care rooms 4 and 5, the disabled toilet, and the designated nappy changing area located adjacent to the proposed Baby and Wobbler care rooms
 - Sanitary facilities including two toilets and two wash hand basin facilities are available for staff members in the service.
- The disabled toilet is also available for staff members use.

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.
- (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:

The requirement has been met.

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

Room	1 st room LHS corridor referred to as Baby	Clear floor space	31 m²
Room	2 nd room LHS corridor referred to as Wobbler	Clear floor space	47 m²
Room	3 rd room RHS corridor referred to as Room 3 / Sleep room	Clear floor space	27 m²
Room	4 th room RHS corridor referred to as Room 4 / Toddler	Clear floor space	47 m²
Room	5 th room RHS corridor referred to as Room 5 / Preschool FDC	Clear floor space	41 m²

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	Room	6 th room RHS corridor referred to as Room 6 / ECCE and Afterschool	Clear floor space	42.5 m²
	(4)(a)(b) The required floor space for the proposed 95 pre-school children in the proposed age range, 0 -6 years old, attending the service is met.			