

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2026LS100											
Name of Service:	Stay & Play Childcare											
Address of Service:	Stradbally After School Centre, Main Street, Stradbally, Co. Laois. R32 D2C2											
Email Address:	stradballystayandplay@gmail.com											
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Sheila Conroy											
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	☐	Part-Time	☐	Drop-In	☐	Sessional	☒	Childminding	☐	Temporary	☐
Proposed service type:	Sessional											
Proposed Number of Children:	22											
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Based on the floor space and sanitary accommodation available in the premises. Nineteen children aged 2-6 years can be accommodated on a sessional basis between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00.											
Registered service:	Sessional Service, 19 Children, Aged 2 – 6 Years											
Date of Inspection:	0	8	0	6	2	0	2	6				
Inspection Undertaken by:	K. Murphy											
Title:	Early Years Inspector											
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.											
Rationale for Inspection												
Proposed New Service												
Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office												
Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service, 19 Children											
Date of Registration:	22/06/2026											

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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	Stay and Play Childcare is proposing to operate a sessional service between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. An application was submitted by the proposed registered provider to the Tusla registration office seeking registration for a sessional service to operate in the morning in a premises that is currently registered with Tusla for school aged provision in the afternoon.
Premises	The Early Years' Service is proposing to operate on the ground floor of a two-storey adapted residential premises. Two interconnected pre-school rooms, sanitary accommodation and a school aged room are currently provided. An outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the premises. The service is urban in its location in the town of Stradbally, County Laois.
Staffing	On 8 June 2026, the proposed registered provider facilitated the inspection.
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 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 provider who was 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The proposed service has made provision for a named person in charge with other named staff members able to deputise as 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

At least two adults are proposed to work directly with the children. Provision is in place to meet the necessary adult to child ratios for children proposing to attend on a sessional basis.

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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.

(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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

Suitable and adequate play and work equipment are provided indoors and outdoors which incorporate areas with toys and equipment for arts and crafts, home corners, interest areas, sensory play and tabletop activities.

(b)

Soft furnishings provide suitable and adequate rest facilities in the proposed pre-school service.

(4)

An outdoor area with an all-weather surface is attached to the rear of the service which can be accessed directly via two exit doors from within the premises. A high-level stone wall and wooden gate secure the perimeter of the designated outdoor play area. A sheltered area “the den” provides opportunity for year-round play outdoors. A variety of stationary play equipment and outdoor toys are available.

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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 has been met.

The parents will provide the healthy snacks for children attending on a sessional basis.

Refrigerated storage facilities are available for the storage of perishable goods.

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.

Unauthorised access to the service and unsupervised exit of children from the service is to be controlled by parents taking children to the designated entrance lobby of the premises for the pre-school service.

Provision is in place for safety checks to be conducted daily for the indoor environment and the outdoor play area.

Cleaning agents are stored out of the potential reach of children. Window blind cords in the premises are secured appropriately.

Self-illuminating emergency lighting and signage is in place throughout the ground floor of the premises. A designated fire assembly point is located to the rear of the premises.

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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)

Evidence was available which confirmed that the proposed registered provider had completed First Aid Response (FAR) training. A childcare practitioner who will work in the service is also qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) and provision is in place to train additional qualified staff.

(2)(a)(b)

A wall mounted first aid cabinet is located centrally within the premises in a visible location. Two first aid boxes are stocked with sufficient supplies for the number of children proposing to attend the service and located in prominent locations indoors and outdoors and out of the reach of children.

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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 firefighting 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)

Provision has been made to carry out and record monthly fire drills in the proposed pre-school service.

(b)

Maintenance records were available for the service of the smoke alarm system which was completed in May 2026.

Maintenance records were available for the service of the firefighting equipment in the premises which was completed in February 2026.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be following in the event of a fire was displayed in various locations throughout the premises.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children proposing to attend the service. The expiry date noted as 27 March 2027.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the registration team prior to this inspection. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers 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 ground floor of the premises which have been in existence for several years has been refurbished to provide an existing school aged service and proposed pre-school service. The second floor of the premises is not in use and not accessible to children.

(b)

An entrance lobby is in place with the main door to the proposed pre-school service secured by a door with access provided by staff upon identification. A doorbell is available and sounded in both the indoor and outdoor environments.

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(c)

Openable windows provide both natural light and ventilation throughout the service. Wall vents are provided throughout the premises. The light fittings were covered and fully operational to provide adequate artificial light to the proposed pre-school rooms and the sanitary accommodation. Thermostatically controlled radiators are in place throughout the service. Records indicated that the gas central heating system was recently serviced. Carbon monoxide alarms are in place throughout the premises. In the proposed occupied areas, an environmental temperature of approximately 18 degrees Celsius was recorded. Wastewater and sewage are removed from the premises by means of the public system.

(d)

The floors and walls were repaired and maintained. A cleaning schedule is available for the service and records are in place. A pest control system is in place. Waste and refuse are proposed to be removed on a daily basis to externally located closed bins in the sister service, located across the road. A contractor for the collection of refuse bins has been engaged by the service to collect refuse from the sister premises on a scheduled basis.

(e)

In respect of nineteen children that can be accommodated the following was noted. One water closet and one wash hand basin have been provided in two separate individual sanitary accommodation areas.

One of the sanitary accommodations is ventilated by means of mechanical ventilation and the other sanitary accommodation is ventilated by both natural ventilation in the form of an openable window and mechanical ventilation.

All sanitary accommodation is stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towel. All wash hand basins are plumbed with an instantaneous supply of hot and cold water. A temperature of 40 degrees Celsius was noted at the wash hand basins.

In separate sanitary facilities one water closet and one wash hand basin are designated for staff use.

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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.

(3) A registered provider of sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that the minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

Adequate floor space for the work, play and movement of children proposing to attend is available.

(3)

- Pre-school room two with an area of approximately 20.74 m² and pre-school room three with an area of approximately 14.62 m² are interconnected and provide a combined floor total of 35.36 m² which ensures that the minimum amount of clear floor space is available in respect of nineteen children age 2 to 6 years proposing to attend on a sessional basis.
- A third room identified as room one on the floor plans provides an area of approximately 21.66 m² is also available on the ground floor of the service which would ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space would be available in respect of eleven children age 2 to 6 years on a sessional basis. This room is currently utilised in the afternoon only for school age childcare provision is not included in the current registration application for a sessional pre-school service.