

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D:	TU2021CE003							
Name of Service	Play & Learn Preschool							
Address of Service:	Broadford Community Hall, Coolagh, Broadford, Co. Clare, V94 PY54.							
Email Address:	playandlearnbroadford@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Provider:	Michelle McNamara							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	ü	Part-Time		Sessional	ü		
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	Proposed increase from 33 to 36 preschool children. New additional Preschool room.							
Proposed Number of Children:	Proposed increase from 33 to 36 preschool children.							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Increase to 36 pre-school children. Additional preschool room.							
Registered change:	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 33 to 36. Change in number of staff from 7 to 8.							
Date of Inspection:	1	2	0	8	2	0	2	6
Inspection undertaken by:	A. McCarthy							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis County Clare.							
Rationale for Inspection:								
Proposed Change of Circumstance								

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care / Sessional Service for 36 Children
Date of Registration	26 th August 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	Play & Learn Preschool was established in 2021, as an independently owned service in the village of Broadford, County Clare. The programme of care and learning is facilitated currently in two care rooms Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 18:00 on a full day care and sessional basis. The two care rooms currently in operation are called the Cubs room and the Tiger room. A school aged childcare service is facilitated in the Tigers room each afternoon. A third new additional pre-school room is proposed to offer sessional care. The room is adjacent to the community hall with a separate entrance.
Premises	The service proposes to operate in the single storey adapted service from the three designated preschool rooms in the community centre. The pre-school premises is set on a site adjacent to Broadford national school and parking for drop off and collection of children is to the front of the premises. The Cubs and Tigers rooms have a separate entrance to the proposed additional pre-school room. Access to this room will be gained through the community hall entrance. There are children's and adult sanitary facilities, nappy changing areas and a kitchen. Two enclosed outdoor play areas are located to the rear of the building, one leading from the Cubs and Tigers rooms and a second play area leading from the community hall. A playground is located on the grounds of the adjoining primary school which is also accessed by the children attending the service. The children have access to a large hall adjacent to the care rooms.
Staffing	The registered provider and seven adults will be employed in the service to care for the children.
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 the

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	following 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 registering the change in circumstance. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children 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:	(1)(a) The registered provider confirmed that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person 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.*
- (8) *Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) *a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)

The registered provider stated that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children.

(8)(a)

The registered provider confirmed that at least two adults will be working in the service at all times. The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults are available at all times.

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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1)(a)

Both the indoor and outdoor environment was adequately resourced for the children that will be attending the service. Space was available where the children could freely move and play.

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Indoor environment:

The pre-school room was bright and laid out with child sized tables and chairs. The room accommodated a wooden kitchen unit, a tuff table with a dinosaur display and a wooden shop unit with supporting materials and equipment. Low level shelving units were available with a range of play and learning materials and equipment. These included puzzles, games, vehicles, animal's, blocks, magnetics, connectors, cubes and a doctors set. A section accommodated wooden Montessori based equipment. An area was available with soft furnishings that included a folding mat and a large mat. This area was adjacent to a shelving area with a variety of reading materials.

Outdoor area:

The outdoor play area adjacent to the Cubs and Tigers rooms was enclosed by a wall and gate. This area was partially covered to promote play in all weather conditions. The children have access to water and sand play, a pretend playhouse, a puppet theatre, a wooden bench and sensory play boxes. The second outdoor play area is located to the rear of the community hall. This area is under development and will be used by the children attending the additional preschool room. The play equipment observed included two sensory boxes, two plastic chairs, a ride on toy and two slides. This registered provider stated that the children will be allocated times daily for the nearby playground for thirty minutes and will have access to the hall.

(b)

An adequate area was available for children to take a rest during the day. This area included a folding mat and a large mat.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

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 was met.

The registered provider demonstrated that adequate, nutritious and varied food and drinks will be available for the proposed number of children attending the pre-school service. The Healthy Eating policy is shared with parents/Guardians during induction. The registered provider confirmed for children attending on a full day care basis that parents/guardians will provide the children's hot meal and one snack and beverages. The service provides two additional snacks. For children attending on a sessional basis parents will provide food and a beverage. An alternative choice is available for children when required. The food is prepared and reheated for children attending on a full day care basis by the adults working in the service. Refrigerators are available in each care room and in the kitchen for storage of perishable food items.

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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 was met.

- A completed risk assessment was available outlining measures taken by the service.
- Internal and external access via the two entrances to the service were appropriately secured with a bell operated system to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental level and age of the pre-school children proposed to attend the service.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of the reach of children making them inaccessible to the children.
- Fire exit routes and the passageways were clear of all obstructions in the event of an emergency.

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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 was met.

(1)

Five adults held up-to-date records of First Aid Response training.

(2)(a)(b)

A first aid box was suitably equipped and stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the care room for use in the event of an emergency.

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 was met.

(1)(a)

The registered provider demonstrated that monthly fire drills are completed.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the

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firefighting equipment took place on the 02 September 2025, and the smoke alarm system took place on 11 August 2026.

(4)

Fire action notices were displayed demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

Up to date insurance cover was available for thirty-six pre-school children attending on a full day care basis. The policy is valid until 27 March 2027.

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.

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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 was met.

(a)

Sound and Stable Structure:

The service is located in a section of a community hall and appears visually to be of sound and stable structure.

(b)

Safe and Secure:

The internal and external entry points were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.

(c)

Lighting:

The service was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating:

The service was heated by means of an oil heating system. The ambient temperatures of the care room and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18 to 22° Celsius on the day of inspection.

Ventilation:

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Natural and mechanical means of ventilation are available in the care room and sanitary facilities; this was provided by means of openable windows and vents in the ceiling.

(d)

Cleaned, Maintained and Repaired:

The indoor and outdoor environment and equipment and materials within were cleaned and maintained in good condition.

(e)

Sanitary Facilities:

Adequately equipped sanitary facilities are provided in the service. Seven toilets, six wash hand basins with running warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels and lined and lidded bins were provided for use by the children. Two nappy changing areas are available. The assigned adult sanitary facility is adequately equipped with a toilet and a hand wash basin.

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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.
- (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:

The requirement was met.

(1)

The registered provider ensured that adequate clear floor space is available in the pre-school service to support the children to freely play and move within the environment.

(2)

The registered provider ensured that the minimum amount of clear floor space was available for the proposed provision of full day care for thirty-six pre-school children aged two to six years. This was agreed with the registered provider at the time of inspection. The total available floor space in the service is illustrated below:

Room Names	Space Measurements:
Tigers	40 m ²
Cubs	26 m ²
Additional Pre-school room.	31 m ²