

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2023DL003

Name of Service: The Meadow Childcare

Address of Service: Ballygay, Milford, Donegal, F92 F6YA

Email Address: themeadowchildcare@outlook.com

Name of Registered Provider: Neasa McBride

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

Proposed change:	Change in Number of Children that can be Accommodated from 62 to 84. Addition of a Session - Additional Room 22 Children 09:30 am to 12:30 pm.
Proposed Number of Children:	84
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	All changes can be approved.
Registered change:	Change in Number of Children that can be Accommodated from 62 to 84. Change in Number of Staff Employed from 12 (as per National Register) to 19. Addition of a Session - Additional Room 22 Children 09:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Date of Inspection:	1	1	0	8	2	0	2	6
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Inspection undertaken by: S Mc Kenna

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Drumalee, Cootehill Road, Co Cavan. H12 YY84

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 84 Children
Date of Registration	17 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	The Meadow Childcare currently provides a full day care service accommodating up to 62 preschool children, aged between 2 and 6 years. A third newly constructed building, located adjacent to the two existing units, has been developed to support the expansion of the service to include a sessional service for 22 children from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm Monday to Friday for the 38-week preschool term.
Premises	The service is located in a rural area approximately 3 km from Milford, on the grounds of the registered provider's family home. The service currently operates across two units: Unit 1, which houses one care room and sanitary facilities. Unit 2 contains two care rooms, a kitchen, staff room, and sanitary facilities for both children and staff. The new unit, Unit 3 proposes to cater for school-aged children for breakfast club and after-school care, and for preschool children during the hours of 9.30 am to 12.30 pm as per this change in circumstance application. Unit 3 also contains an office, storeroom and sanitary facilities. Securely fenced outdoor play areas are located to the side and rear of all of the units. Off-street parking is provided to the front of the units, to facilitate safe drop-off and collection of children.
Staffing	The service is operated by the registered provider, who is actively involved in the day-to-day running of the service. In total, the registered provider advised that a total of 19 staff members will be employed 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 the 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

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	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, 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:	The requirement has been met. The service has a designated person in charge who is the registered provider, and a named person to deputise in their absence.
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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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. The registered provider is aware of the requirements of this regulation in relation to adult : child ratios.
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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.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—*
- (a) *a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or*
 - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*

Requirement met:

The requirements of this regulation have been met.

- (1) (a) Adequate and suitable facilities have been provided for the children to play indoors during the day. A range of play materials, play equipment and toys, along with well-resourced designated interest areas such as a home corner, creative area, small world areas and play houses, were available in the preschool room.
- (b) There is a cosy area in the preschool room which contained a soft mat and cushions.
- (3) The proposed new preschool room leads out onto a new covered concrete area surrounded by high-level wooden fencing. An additional new outdoor area surrounded by grass banks and fencing had a part ground surface of concrete with ride-on toys and secured goal posts, and also a ground-surfaced bark area with wooden swings and a climbing structure.

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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 has been met.

The children in Unit 3 sessional room will take in their morning snacks daily from home. A fridge is available in the preschool room for the storage of perishable food items. The children's drink bottles will be available and accessible in the room throughout the day, with water units available to top up drink bottles if needed.

The registered provider advised the inspector that additional food items are available in the kitchen should a child have insufficient amounts of their age and the time spent in the service on a particular day. A Four-week menu was on display for the operation of the full day care service.

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.

- The front entrance doors into each of the units are operated by staff fobs or coded keypads. This prevents children from exiting the service unsupervised and restricts unauthorised access.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed throughout the inspection.
- There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste, including the provision of foot pedal-operated bins throughout the service.
- Individual single-use paper towels were provided for handwashing purposes.
- Cleaning schedules were available for the service. The proposed new room was maintained in a clean and hygienic manner.
- Cleaning materials were stored in secured cupboards or the store room.
- Risk assessment records are in place.
- The designated fire assembly point, confirmed by the registered provider, is located to the side of the registered provider's own home.

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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 has ensured that there are 3 adults with up-to-date First Aid Responder (FAR) training proposed to work in the Unit 3 sessional room.

(2) (a) (b) An adequately stocked first aid box was provided in the preschool room, available to the children at all times.

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 registered provider demonstrated that a template to record fire drills is available, and fire drills were conducted monthly.

(b) There is a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment was carried out on 15 July 2026, and the fire detection and alarm system was carried out on 25 July 2026.

(4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed throughout Unit 3.

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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.

Insurance is in place for up to 110 preschool children in attendance on a Full Day Care basis and expires on 27 March 2027.

The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place before the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered 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 registered provider confirmed that she had no knowledge of any structural defects.

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

(c) The service is adequately lit and heated. The lighting is provided by a mixture of natural light leading from large windows, which were supplemented with fluorescent ceiling lights, which were fitted with protective covers. The service is heated by an air conditioning unit in the preschool room, and wall-mounted electrical heaters in the sanitary and office areas.

The care rooms were maintained at a temperature of 18 - 22°C.

The preschool room is ventilated by openable windows, and the sanitary areas are ventilated via mechanical ventilation or openable windows.

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	(d) Cleaning schedules were available and in place, and the premises are maintained in a clean condition. (e) The children's sanitary facilities in Unit 3 located off the entrance hallway directly outside the care room, were equipped with a total of 2 toilets and 2 wash hand basins. Thermostatically controlled hot water to a maximum of 40°C, and cold running water is available in all of the hand-washing sinks. There is 1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin available for the adults working in Unit 3, located off the entrance hallway.
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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 a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a 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 clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children within the proposed preschool room located in Unit 3. (3) The following floor space is available The preschool room is 47.6m².
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