

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2026DN101							
Name of Service:	Tots Creche Carrickmines							
Address of Service:	Dún Óir Close, Dublin 18, D18 FC6C							
Email Address:	dunoir@tots.ie							
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Annette Akerlind and Audrey Murray							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time		Drop-In			
	Sessional	✓	Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed service type:	Full Day Care, Sessional							
Proposed Number of Children:	66							
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	The registered provider stated that the service will accommodate children aged 0-6 years. • Opening hours 7am to 6.30pm. • The proposed number of children requested was 66. The clear floor space available allows for 47 children attending on a full day care basis or 54 children attending full day care/ sessional. • The number of children attending each room must be in accordance with those specified in column (3) of schedule 7 under Regulation 30.							
Registered service:	Service Registered							
Date of Inspection:	1	1	0	8	2	0	2	6
Inspection Undertaken by:	H Sutherland and O Quill							
Title:	Early Years Inspectors							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8							

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Rationale for Inspection
Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Service Registered
Date of Registration:	27/08/2026

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 a full day care and sessional service for children aged between 0 to 6 years of age. The proposed hours of operation are from 7am to 6.30pm for 51 weeks of the year.
Premises	The premises has been purposefully adapted to accommodate a childcare facility. It is located at ground level within an apartment complex in an urban area of Carrickmines South County Dublin. The service comprises of four care rooms; sanitary facilities, a catering kitchen, an office and a staff room. An enclosed outdoor space is available to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	The registered providers have employed 12 adults to work in the service including a manager, 10 early years educators and a chef.
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

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	administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Acknowledgement	The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider, person in charge, general manager and office manager 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) The registered providers have ensured that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise when 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.

An adequate number of adults will work directly with the children. Provision is in place to meet the necessary adult to child ratios for children proposing to attend on a full day care and sessional basis. Eleven adults including a manager are available to work in the service.

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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.*
- (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 registered provider proposes to allocate children across four preschool rooms in accordance with their age and stage of development. Each of the care rooms were bright and well organised with a range of resources and equipment to support children's play experiences. The resources were clearly displayed and positioned to enable children to access them independently. Suitable, age-appropriate furniture was available to support tabletop activities. The outdoor area was laid out with a variety of equipment to facilitate children's sustained engagement.

(b) Stackable beds were provided for children over 24 months. Standard cots and suitable low level floor beds with fitted mattresses are available to accommodate the sleep needs of children under 24 months. Each of the care rooms had designated areas with soft seating for children to take a rest during the day if required.

(2)

(a) Each of the care rooms open out onto a suitable safe and secure outdoor area. The outdoor area is securely enclosed by high fencing and a boundary wall.

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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 registered provider stated that a chef has been recruited and that suitable facilities including a separate kitchen are in place to provide children with adequate and nutritious food and drinks, including a hot meal. The registered provider confirmed that a system will be in place to ensure drinking water will be freely available for the children in each care room. The area manager stated that the relevant health authority had been notified regarding the preparation of food on the premises.

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.

- External doors will be appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access. A video intercom system is in place to facilitate controlled access to the premises for parents, guardians and visitors. Staff will access the premises using a secure keypad entry system.
- The exit gates in the outdoor area are suitably secured with a magnetic lock and keypad system.
- Provision is in place for the safe disposal of waste through the use of pedal operated bins throughout the service.
- Cleaning schedules are in place.
- Liquid soap, thermostatically controlled water, and wall mounted paper towel dispensers are available in the sanitary areas to support handwashing.
- Provision is in place for the safe storage of cleaning materials.

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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 person in charge and one additional staff member have current certification in first aid responder (FAR) training.

(2)

(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes are available and stored safely in easily accessible and prominent positions in the service.

(b) The first aid boxes are positioned to ensure they are readily available to the staff when caring for the children proposed to attend the service.

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 person in charge stated that fire drills will be carried out monthly.

(b) There is a record available relating to the number and type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and for the testing of smoke alarms.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were prominently displayed in the care rooms and communal areas.

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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.

Evidence of insurance is available and valid from the 23 July 2026 until the 27 March 2027.

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 premises has been purposely built and appeared in a good state of repair.
- (b) The service was safe and secure and access will be controlled by staff.
- (c) The service benefits from good levels of natural light through large windows and doors provided in each care room. Additional artificial lighting is provided through covered ceiling light fittings throughout the service. A heating, ventilation, air conditioning system is in place to monitor and regulate room temperatures within the required range.
- (d) The premises is clean and well maintained and cleaning schedules are in place.
- (e) The sanitary facilities provided in the service include:
 - Five toilets and six wash hand basins are designated for children's use.
 - Two nappy changing areas with two wash hand basins.
 - Two adult toilets and two wash hand basins.
 - Additionally, the service has a disability toilet with two wash hand basins and one nappy changing facility. This sanitary facility will function as either an adult toilet or a nappy changing facility.

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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.
- (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.
- (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) Clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children as demonstrated below.

(2)

Room	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
Clear floor space	24 m ²	43 m ²	29 m ²	29 m ²
Proposed age range	0-6 years	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years
Max number of children	7 FDC	15 FDC	12 FDC or 16 sessional	13 FDC or 16 sessional

- (4) (a)(b) As part of the proposed registered capacity, in a contemporaneous situation a minimum of 1.818 square metres is available for up to 16 children in room 3 and 4.