

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2026KE101							
Name of Service:	Tots Creche Bawnogues							
Address of Service:	Bawnogue View, Kilcock, Kildare, W23C93A							
Email Address:	denise@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:	The registered providers propose to accommodate 148 children aged 0 to 6 years on a full time, part time and sessional care basis. The providers propose to operate between 07:00 and 18:30 Monday to Friday, 51 weeks per year.							
Proposed Number of Children:	148							
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Proposed service approved for a maximum of 96 children aged 0 to 6 years on a full time, part time and sessional care basis. Operating hours between 07:00 and 18:30 Monday to Friday, 51 weeks per year.							
Registered service:	Service Registered							
Date of Inspection:	3	0	0	7	2	0	2	6
Inspection Undertaken by:	R. Brien & E. Mulhern							
Title:	Early Years Inspectors							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Rd, Naas, Co Kildare.							

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Service Registered
Date of Registration:	14/08/2026

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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	Tots Creche Bawnogues is a proposed early years service offering full day, part-time and sessional care to children aged between 0 to 6 years. This new, privately operated, early years service is located in an urban, residential area in Kilcock, Co Kildare. The service proposes to operate from 07:00 to 18:30, Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year. The registered providers currently operate 16 registered early years services.
Premises	The providers propose to operate from a purpose-built setting with six care rooms and one designated sleep room. There are four care rooms on the ground floor, and two on the first floor where children will be accommodated according to their age and stage of development. The building also includes a reception area, an office, a kitchen, a staff room, a laundry room, sanitary facilities and storage areas. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	A manager, deputy manager, 13 early years educators and a chef will be employed for the proposed service. Future staffing will depend on the number of children attending and their ages. The registered providers demonstrated an awareness of staffing levels required for the number and age range of children who may be registered.
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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider, general manager and area managers who were present on the day of the inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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.

(1) A total of 13 staff will be employed to work directly with the children initially. The person in charge will be available to assist in care rooms where necessary.

The registered providers will ensure that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the early years children in the service. The staffing complement will increase depending on the number of children present and their ages.

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 partially met.

(1)(a)

The care rooms are bright and are fully equipped with a range of play materials and equipment suitable to the age and stage of the proposed children attending each room. Low level furniture and shelving are available containing materials for manipulative, creative, sensory, imaginative play, gross and fine motor and challenging play. These

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

	include designated interest areas including home corners, construction areas, dress-up areas and library areas all accessible to the children at their level. (b) Eight suitable floor beds are available for children under 2 years of age and nine stackable floor beds are available for children over two years of age attending on a full day care basis who may require sleep or rest. Care rooms have suitable and comfortable rest areas available which contained seating. (2)(a) There is an enclosed outdoor area provided on the premises. The area can be directly accessed from three care rooms and has an artificial grass surface. Suitable play equipment and materials are available including an outdoor kitchen, ride-on toys and a slide. The area is fully enclosed and secured to prevent unauthorised entry or a child leaving unsupervised. No hazards were observed in the outdoor area.
Requirement not met:	(1)(b) 1. There was no evidence to demonstrate that the 14 cots available met the British Standard European Norm (BS/EN) BS/EN 716-1: 2017 and BS/EN 1130:2019 safety standards. 2. There was no evidence to demonstrate that the 14 cot mattresses available met the EU safety standards for cot mattresses.
Response from Provider:	Supporting documentation submitted confirming compliance of the 14 cots with BS/EN safety standards and the 14 cot mattresses with the required EU safety standards.
Summary Comment:	Documentation was submitted in keeping with the response. The requirement has been met.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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.

A kitchen is available for the preparation and provision of adequate food and drinks for children. A healthy eating policy is in place. A four-week menu plan is available to demonstrate that varied nutritious food will be provided.

Perishable foods will be stored in the refrigerator. Drinking water will be available and accessible to children in the care rooms.

Children attending on a sessional basis will bring a morning snack from home. All other meals will be provided by the service.

The registered providers confirmed that alternative meals and snacks are available if required and that additional snacks are available outside of scheduled mealtimes.

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:

This requirement has been partially met.

- External doors are secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The gates in the outdoor area are suitably secured.
- Emergency exit doors are unobstructed to allow for safe evacuation.
- The staircases are adequately lit, the floor has a non-slip floor covering and handrails are provided.
- There are no loose cables or cords that could pose a risk of injury.
- An infection control policy is in place to inform practice.
- Cleaning schedules are in place.
- Cleaning materials are stored safely.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to children.

Requirement not met:

1. The two bins in the sanitary areas in Room 3 had no foot pedals.

Response from Provider:

Photos submitted confirming the replacement bins in the two sanitary areas in Room 3, which are fitted with lids and foot pedals.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Summary Comment:	Photographs were submitted in keeping with the response. The requirement has been met.
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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:	This requirement has been met. (1) The person in charge and an area manager who will be based in the service have current certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training. (2)(a)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes are provided in the service. They are clearly identifiable and easily accessible.
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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) The proposed registered providers have indicated that fire drills will be carried out on a monthly basis. A template is available for recording fire drills. (b) There is a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment and for the commissioning and servicing of the fire detection and alarm system. (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed conspicuously throughout the service and the fire assembly point is clearly identifiable.
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TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

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 for the proposed number of children was available. The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the service. Registration of the service 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 partially met.

- (a) The proposed service will operate out of a purpose-built building, over two floors. The registered providers confirmed that the premises is of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The proposed providers have taken appropriate measures to safeguard the premises. All external doors and gates are locked to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving unsupervised.
- (c) The service is adequately lit, heated and ventilated. There is a good level of natural lighting in the care rooms with artificial lighting available as required. Windows can be opened to provide natural ventilation. Air conditioning is present in the service to manage the environmental temperature, and the temperature is maintained between 18-22°C in care rooms. The sanitary facilities are ventilated by mechanical means of ventilation.
- (d) The premises and surrounding environment are clean and maintained as required. A cleaning schedule is in place, and cleaning equipment is available in the care rooms.
- (e) Adequate and suitable toilet facilities have been provided. There are 11 toilets and 12 wash hand basins for children's use.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

	There are three toilets and three wash hand basins available for adults. Thermostatically controlled hot and cold water is available in all hand wash sinks.
Requirement not met:	1. An adequate number of nappy changing units are not available. There are two nappy changing units and sinks available. An additional nappy changing unit is required for the proposed number of children.
Response from Provider:	Additional nappy changing unit placed in bathroom.
Summary Comment:	Photographs were submitted in keeping with the response. The requirement has been met.

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 not met:	Requirement not met.						
	(1)(2)(4)(a)(b) Adequate clear floor space is not available for the proposed 148 children. Clear floor space is available for a maximum of 96 children in respect of their age range.						
	Room	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Room 6
	Clear Floor Space	41m ²	9m ²	47m ²	44.3m ²	44.8m ²	40.59m ²
	Proposed Age Range	2-3 years	0-1 year	2-3 years	2-3 years	2-5 years	3-5 years
Response from Provider:	No response submitted.						
Summary Comment:	There is clear floor space for a maximum of 96 children in respect of their age range as outlined in the table above.						