

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2026LK102							
Name of Service:	Zenith Childcare Castletroy							
Address of Service:	Mill Walk The Mills Dublin Road Limerick							
Email Address:	castletroymanager@zenithcaregroup.com							
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Charlene Roche							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	☒	Part-Time	☐	Drop-In	☐		
	Sessional	☒	Childminding	☐	Temporary	☐		
Proposed service type:	Full day care, Sessional service							
Proposed Number of Children:	88							
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Full day care, Sessional service. - 68 preschool children to attend full time in each of the 5 rooms. - 88 preschool children when all rooms upstairs are operating as sessional and the wobbler 1 and 2 remain full day care. Aged 0-6 years. Hours of operation 07.30hrs – 18.00hrs							
Registered service:	Service Registered							
Date of Inspection:	0	6	0	8	2	0	2	6
Inspection Undertaken by:	J Ryan and A Mc Carthy							
Title:	Early Years Inspectors							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Floor 2, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.							
Rationale for Inspection								
Proposed New Service								

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

Registration Status:	Service Registered
Date of Registration:	18/08/2026

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	Zenith childcare Castletroy proposes to provide Full Day Care and Sessional care to children aged 0 to 6 years. Proposed daily opening hours are 07.30hrs to 18.00hrs, Monday to Friday over 50 weeks of the year, with a 2-week closure period in the summer. The premises is located in a residential area in the outskirts of Limerick city.
Premises	The two storey newly purpose-built premises consists of five care rooms with children's sanitary facilities adjoining the care rooms. The service also includes a dedicated sleep room, office, staff room, kitchen and staff sanitary facilities. There is one large enclosed outdoor play area provided adjacent to the entrance to the premises. The outdoor space has an all-weather surface, children's play equipment and was secured by high level walls and a gate.
Staffing	The registered provider is the owner of the service. A manager and deputy manager for the service has been appointed. Currently nineteen staff have been employed and are undergoing induction training. All staff working directly with the preschool children will have attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
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

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	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 service provider and managers who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment	
<i>(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.</i>	
Requirement met:	(1)(a) The requirement has been met. A named person in charge has been assigned to the service, with a person available to deputise if required.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels	
<i>(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.</i>	
Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1) The service proposes that the required adult: child ratios will be adhered to at all times 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 five care rooms have been furnished and laid out in consideration of the developmental needs and the age range of the children proposed to attend each room. There is a sufficient quantity of child sized tables and chairs available, and a wide variety of play resources are accessible at child height.

Play resources including puzzles, construction sets, instruments and books are positioned on low level open shelves for easy child access. Sensory spaces are created in a number of rooms and well-resourced areas of interest have been developed to include home corners, shops, dress up areas and quiet reading areas with soft seating and matting. Most of the play materials are made of real natural wood and sensory play such as sand and water will be available in the outdoor play space.

The outdoor area will be subdivided to ensure all children can access outdoor play on a daily basis.

(b)

There is a sleep room available with ten standard cots. Thirteen low level sleep beds are provided for children who progress from using a cot to sleeping in a bed. Twenty stackable sleep beds are provided for the children over two years who will require a sleep while attending on a full day care basis. Children who do not access the cots in the sleep room will have their sleep facilitated within the care rooms.

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(2)(a)

The outdoor area contains an all-weather surface and is equipped with a wide range of play equipment which includes climbing frames, ride on toys, sensory play tables and sand and water play.

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.

An outside catering company will provide the hot meals for the children. Sample menu plans were available which indicated that the food provision will be in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Breakfast, snacks and the afternoon meal will be prepared within the onsite kitchen.

Drinking water will be available for children in each room of the 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:

This requirement has been met.

- The front door is secured at all times with a keypad system and CCTV monitoring in place ensuring children cannot leave the service unsupervised and unauthorised access to the service cannot occur.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Suitable storage is available for the children's belongings.
- Cleaning materials and equipment are locked in a cupboard in the service inaccessible to children. The cleaning equipment in the nappy changing areas is stored on high shelving out of reach of children.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to the children.

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	• Outdoor waste facilities are inaccessible to the children attending the service. • Fridges are available in each care room to store perishable foods. • A cleaning schedule for the premises and the toys and equipment is available. Cleaners will be employed for twenty hours a week to complete a thorough cleaning of the premises when children are not present. • The sanitary accommodation areas are well stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towels. The water temperature was recorded at a safe temperature of 36.8°C. Pedal operated, lined, lidded bins are available in all sanitary areas and care rooms for the safe disposal of used paper towels and other waste. Additional pedal operated, lined lidded bins are available for the safe disposal of soiled nappies. • A system is in place for the safe monitoring of children while sleeping with safe sleep procedures clearly displayed on the walls. The sleep checks will be recorded on an electronic application system.
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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) Three staff have achieved certification in FAR (First Aid Response). (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box is available in each of the care rooms in the service. (b) The first aid boxes were wall mounted, clearly identifiable and readily 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 service provider and manager indicated that fire drills will be carried out on a monthly basis in the service when it is operational. A specified book was available for the purpose of recording the monthly fire drills.

(b)

The firefighting equipment and the smoke detection system were installed in this new build in May 2026 and July 2026. Contracts are in place for the regular service and maintenance of the fire safety equipment and smoke alarms.

(4)

Notices were displayed in conspicuous places in the care rooms of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire. The fire assembly points were clearly identified with signage at the entrance to the premises.

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 an insurance policy for 88 pre-school children to attend the service on a full day care basis was available on inspection and expires on 27th March 2027.

Registration of this service is contingent upon the registered provider maintaining up to-date insurance cover that accurately reflects the number of children attending the service.

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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 has been met.

(a)

The proposed service is in a newly constructed, two storey purpose-built facility.

(b)

The point of entry to the service is secured through the main door with a keypad system and CCTV monitoring in place.

The outdoor area is secured with high walls and the access gate is secured to prevent a child leaving unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons gaining access to the area.

(c)

Natural light is available in the five care rooms. There is supplemented with artificial lighting throughout the service.

There is a mechanical heating and ventilation system in place. Windows in the seven care rooms can be opened but have restrictors in place and there is a combination of mechanical and natural ventilation in all sanitary areas.

(d)

The premises and surrounding environment were clean and well maintained. A cleaning schedule was in place for the service, with a cleaner employed for daily cleaning and a contract in place for deep cleaning on a regular basis or as required.

(e)

The service is equipped with an adequate number of sanitary facilities suitable for adult and children's use. The children's sanitary accommodation is accessed directly from each care room.

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The service has six child sized toilets with six wash hand basins which can accommodate a maximum of 66 toilet trained children at any given time. There are five nappy changing units available for children of which two are located beside two wash hand basins.

Three toilets and three wash hand basins are available for adults. Two additional was hand basins are available.

Thermostatically controlled hot water was available in the children's sanitary areas and the temperature of the water at the wash hand basins was within the safe temperature range.

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) *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)

Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated below:

(2)

The required clear floor space is available in each of the care rooms as follows;

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	Room Name	Clear Floor Space	Proposed age of children	Maximum number of children attending
	Wobbler room 1	33.37m ²	1 – 2 years	12 children attending FDC
	Wobbler room 2	27.04 m ²	1 – 2 years	10 children attending FDC
	Preschool room 1	38.14 m ²	1 – 2 years	14 children attending FDC or 21 sessional
	Preschool room 2	42.30 m ²	1 – 2 years	15 children attending FDC or 23 sessional
	Preschool room 3	39.42 m ²	2 – 3 years	17 children attending FDC or 22 sessional
	(3) The service has space to accommodate a maximum of 68 preschool children attending on a full-time basis at any one time in all rooms. The service could accommodate 88 preschool children when all rooms upstairs are operating as sessional and the wobbler 1 and 2 remain full day care.			