

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2026TY003							
Name of Service:	Kilruane Doodlebugs							
Address of Service:	Lisgarode, Kilruane, Nenagh, Co Tipperary, E45HC04							
Email Address:	kilruanedoodlebugs@gmail.com							
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Charlotte Walsh							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	☒	Part-Time	☒	Drop-In	☐		
	Sessional	☒	Childminding	☐	Temporary	☐		
Proposed service type:	Sessional, Part-time and Full Day Care							
Proposed Number of Children:	16							
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Service is suitable for the proposed full day care for up to 16 children aged between 2 and 6 years old between 8am and 5.30pm, Monday – Friday.							
Registered service:	Registered Service							
Date of Inspection:	2	0	0	7	2	0	2	6
Inspection Undertaken by:	L McGeeney							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	North Tipperary Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co Tipperary E45A099							

Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

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

Registration Status:	Service Registered
Date of Registration:	19.08.2026

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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	This proposed service will cater for children aged between 2 and 6 years old on a sessional, part-time or full day care basis, Monday – Friday, 8am – 5.30pm, including a daily three-hour session that will operate 9am – 12pm. The service will cater for up to 16 children at any one time.
Premises	The service will be operated from a single-storey, detached building that was purpose built for use as an early years service and was previously operated as Kilruane Montessori by a different registered provider. The premises is located at the back of a residential house in a rural area between Nenagh and Cloughjordan in north Tipperary. The service consists of two activity rooms, kitchen and sanitary accommodation area. There are outdoor play areas at the front and side of the premises.
Staffing	The proposed registered provider will work in the service on a daily basis and the co-owner of the service will be available to cover when the registered provider is not present. It is proposed that there will be two additional staff working directly with the children in the service each day. The previous registered provider of Kilruane Montessori will be available in the residential house to call on if required in an emergency.
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.

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Acknowledgement	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and co-owner of the service who were present on the day of the inspection.
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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:	This requirement has been met. (1)(a) The registered provider will be the designated person in charge on a daily basis and the co-owner of the service will deputise in her 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.

(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:	This requirement has been met. (1) It is proposed that there will be two staff working directly with the children on a daily basis and that the registered provider will also be present in the service. (8)(a) There will be at least two staff present in the service while it is in operation.
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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:	This requirement has been met.
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	(1)(a) There were two activity rooms. Each room could be accessed from the corridor. Free movement between both rooms was enabled by an internal doorway connecting the rooms. Each room was set up for different types of play and exploration. The Purple room was set up with tables and chairs for table top activities and dining, there were shelves of puzzles, manipulative toys and small world materials and resources for construction activities. The Green room was set up for mark making, rest and relaxation in the library/cosy area and imaginative play. There were additional play materials and resources for use outdoors including a mud kitchen, balls and ride on toys. (b) There was a cosy area in the Green room for rest and relaxation during the day with a padded vinyl floor mat and cushions. There were also three camp beds available for use if a child requires a sleep while attending the service. There was a supply of bedding for use with the beds. (2)(a) There were two spaces available for outdoor play: a tarmacadam area in front of the premises and a grass area at the side of the premises. The grass area was enclosed by walls, hedging and fencing. Storage sheds in this area were locked. The tarmacadam area was enclosed by walls, fencing and a large gate to separate the outdoor area from the carpark area at the front of the premises.
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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:	This requirement has been met. The service will provide all meals and snacks with the exception of the 10.30am snack, which the children will bring from home. The service has a weekly menu that will rotate on a two-weekly cycle. The service has a supply of drinking water and the children will bring their own drink bottles of water each day.
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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 has been met.

General safety:

The premises has safety measures in place to prevent children gaining unsupervised access to the roadway in front of the premises and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.

The children will not have access to the kitchen.

Storage sheds in the outdoor area were kept locked to prevent children gaining access to harmful tools or chemicals.

It is proposed that staff will carry out regular risk assessments both indoors and outdoors to help prevent accidents and incidents.

Infection control:

The service had an infection control policy. Warm water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were available to support hygienic handwashing.

Lidded pedal-operated bins were available in the service for the safe disposal of refuse.

Administration of medication:

The service had a policy on the administration of medication. Medication consent forms are to be completed prior to any medication being given to a child while attending the service.

Fire safety:

Fire escape routes were kept clear of obstruction.

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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 registered provider and the co-owner both hold current certification in first aid response (FAR).

(2)(a) Two suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and stored in the kitchen for easy access when required.

(b) The first aid boxes will be available when required by a child attending 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 firefighting 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:

(1)(a) The proposed service had a fire register to record fire drills and information about fire safety in the service.

(b) There was a record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. The firefighting equipment was serviced in June 2026 and the smoke alarm system in July 2026.

(4) There were notices in the corridor detailing the actions to be taken in the event of a fire.

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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:

This requirement has been met.

The registered provider has insurance cover for the service.

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:

This requirement has been met.

(a) The service appeared to be of sound and stable structure. The service was recently refurbished, flooring was replaced and part of the premises was reconfigured to create the kitchen.

(b) The service was safe and secure. There was off-road parking at the front of the premises and a gate separating the parking area from the outdoor play area and pre-school building. The entrance doors to the service will be kept secure and access to the service managed by the registered provider or by staff. The glass in the front door and side panels will enable staff to see who is seeking access before opening the door to them.

Hot water for hand-washing was heated by an electric water heater and thermostatically controlled not to exceed 43°C.

There was a ramp as well as steps, with hand rails, for safe access to the service via the main entrance door.

(c) Each room in the service including the sanitary accommodation areas and kitchen had openable windows to allow for natural lighting and ventilation. Electric lighting was also available. The service was heated by an oil-fired central heating system with wall mounted radiators in each room. The boiler was serviced in March 2026.

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- (d) The service was clean and well maintained. There was a cleaning schedule detailing cleaning tasks, method and frequency.
- (e) There were three toilets and three wash hand basins in the service which was sufficient provision for up to 22 toilet-trained children and up to 8 staff. There was also a free-standing nappy changing unit available if required.

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 met:

This requirement has been met.

- (1) There was a total of 41m² of clear floor space in the two activity rooms for work, play and movement. The kitchen, sanitary accommodation areas and corridor were not included in this calculation.
- (2) There was sufficient space for up to 17 children aged between 2 and 6 years old to attend on a part-time or full day care basis. Therefore, there was sufficient space for the 16 children the service is proposed to be registered to accommodate.
- (4) The space requirements during the three-hour morning session will be 1.818m² per child, therefore the space requirements for 16 children aged between 2.5 and 6 years old will be 29m² for the duration of the session.
- It is acknowledged that the service had sufficient space for up to 22 children aged between 2.5 and 6 years old to attend on a sessional basis, however planning

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permission allowed for a maximum of 16 children. Therefore the number of children attending at any one time cannot exceed 16.