

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



rTusla I.D: TU2015FL095

Name of Service Funky Kids

Address of Service: Back St. Dance Studio, Unit 8 Columba House,
Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin. K67 R2Y9

Email Address: Funkykids333@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Michelle Fitzgerald

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

Proposed change: Proposal to change from a sessional to a part-time service, to operate from 9.00am to 1.00pm each weekday.

Proposed Number of Children: 21 (no change)

Recommended Change Following Inspection: The application to change from a sessional early years service to a part-time service can be approved.

Registered change: Change in Service Type from Sessional to Part Time

Date of Inspection: 0 9 0 2 2 0 2 3

Inspection undertaken by: S Taaffe

Title: Early years inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park
Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time / Sessional Service for 21 Children
Date of Registration	21 st February 2023

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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	Funky Kids is an early years service which caters specifically for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The service does not participate in the ECCE scheme. All staff members in the service are funded through the Department of Education's home tuition grant. An early years service has been in operation in this setting since 2010 and the service was taken over by the registered provider in January 2021. The registered provider and a business partner also jointly operate three other early years services in Dublin city and county. This service is currently registered to cater for a maximum of 21 pre-school children on a sessional basis, with children in attendance from 9.30am to 1.00pm daily.
Premises	Funky Kids is conducted from two care rooms located on the ground floor of a commercial premises situated in a business park in Swords in North Co. Dublin. Sanitary accommodation for the early years service is provided on both the ground floor and the first floor of the premises. A main entrance door and hallway lead into the early years service. The service has its own enclosed outdoor play area which is located to the rear of the building and which adjoins the car park. The two care rooms and a further room on the first floor are operated as a dance studio with scheduled classes provided daily, outside of the hours of the early years service. A large purpose-built indoor activity play centre and a separate early years service are also conducted from other sections of the building which are accessed through separate entrances.
Staffing	A manager is employed who oversees the day to day operation of the service and works directly with the children, supported by a team of 7 staff members. The registered provider also works with the children in the service when required and on a regular basis.
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 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 and the person in charge who were present on the day of the inspection.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

The service manager was the designated person in charge and there were two named persons to deputise as 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.

(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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) During the fit for purpose inspection which took place during the afternoon there were no children attending the service. A maximum of 12 pre-school children currently attend the service, all on a sessional basis. The service is also registered to accommodate school aged children although there are currently no school aged children attending. The registered provider was aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times when the service is in operation.

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

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Requirement met:	The requirement has been met. (1)(a) The two care rooms were resourced with a suitable range of play materials and equipment laid out to facilitate play opportunities for the children in attendance. The play materials were stored on low-level shelving which were accessible to the pre-school children. The larger room, known as the Playroom, located to the front of the premises is set up on a daily basis to facilitate a play-based curriculum and play equipment includes a wooden climbing frame to support physical play and activity, construction materials and household-style play materials. The smaller room, known as the One to One room, located to the left hand side of the entrance hallway is set up with small tables and chairs on a daily basis, facilitating staff members to provide a one to one education-based programme to the children for periods of time each day, including supporting the children to develop their fine motor skills. The service is required to remove all play materials and equipment from the two care rooms at the end of the session on a daily basis and place these in the storage areas, in order to facilitate dance classes to take place in the vacant rooms when the early years service is not in operation. A range of suitable equipment including ride-on toys, wheelbarrows and a plastic playhouse were provided to support play experiences in the outdoor play area. (b) A rest area was available in the two care rooms with soft mats and cushions provided to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities during the day if required. A number of stackable beds and linen were stored in the service which the inspector was informed would be set up in the corner of the One to One room in the event that a child may need or wish to sleep during their attendance in the service. (3)(a) The grass-surfaced outdoor play area which adjoined the car park to the rear of the premises was enclosed by gated wooden fencing. The service manager had evidence that a risk assessment was conducted on a daily basis when the children were taken outside to play, taking account of the requirement to walk in the car park to the side and rear of the premises, in order to access the outdoor play area.
-------------------------	---

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 inspector was informed that all children bring their own snacks from home which are in keeping with the service's healthy eating policy. Children have the option to eat a second snack during their attendance should they wish to do so. The inspector was informed that water is provided to drink with the snacks and the children's water bottles are also available for the children to take from low level shelving throughout the day,
-------------------------	--

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

should they feel thirsty at any stage. Packs of fresh water bottles with sports caps, crackers and bread sticks were observed in the kitchenette and the service manager stated that these would be provided to the children during their attendance if required.

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 inspector did not identify any hazards that would impact the health, safety or welfare of the children attending the service. It appeared that appropriate measures had been undertaken in the service to ensure the safety of the children including the provision of thermostatically controlled warm water in the sanitary accommodation, the premises and outdoor play area being appropriately secured, the kitchenette made inaccessible though the provision of a high-level sliding latch, and cleaning agents being stored safely out of the reach of children. The inspector was informed that children were accompanied by a staff member at all times when using the stairs to access the sanitary facilities on the first floor. A documented risk assessment was completed daily in advance of the children accessing the wooden climbing frame in the Playroom, in order to ensure its safety and suitability for use.

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 ensured that a person trained in first aid for children including first aid response (FAR) training was, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the service. The service manager and one of the two designated deputy persons in charge, both who work in the service on a daily basis, held in-date FAR training.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

(2)(a) and (b) The suitably equipped first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location in a secured cupboard in the front hallway and this was available at all times for the children, if needed in the event of an emergency.

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) A record was available in the service which showed that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis.

(b) Records were available showing that the fire fighting equipment was serviced in April 2022 and the smoke detection system were certified as having been serviced in March 2022.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the premises.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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 appeared to be in good condition throughout.

(b) The premises appeared safe and was found to be appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years service.

(c)

Lighting:

The premises was adequately lit by means of natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting.

Heating:

The premises is heated by means of an electric heating system with ceiling-mounted grid panels in place and digital thermostats provided in both care rooms. The ambient temperatures of the care rooms and the sanitary accommodation were within the optimum care room temperature range of 18-22°C on the day of inspection.

Ventilation:

Ventilation in the two care rooms and the sanitary facilities on the first floor was provided by means of openable windows and trickle vents. The internal sanitary facility on the ground floor was fitted with a mechanical ventilation unit.

(d) The premises was in a clean condition and generally in a good state of repair.

(e) Adequate sanitary accommodation was provided for the number of pre-school children attending and staff members employed. One toilet and wash hand basin was provided on the ground floor for children's use. A second toilet, a nappy changing unit and a wash hand basin was provided on the first floor for children's use and a further toilet and wash hand basin was provided in this sanitary area for staff use. Separate additional toilets on the first floor were not accessed by the children attending the early years service.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There is adequate clear floor space available for the safety, play and movement for the maximum number of 21 children which the service is registered to accommodate.

(2) The minimum space regulatory requirement can be met for 21 pre-school children attending the service. The registered provider and service manager are aware of the minimum clear floor space requirements as specified in Schedule 7.

- The clear floor space in the Playroom measured 68.7 square metres.
- The clear floor space in the One to One room measured 33.6 square metres.