

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D:	TU2015FL117							
Name of Service	Blanchardstown Home - Start							
Address of Service:	10 Blakestown Cottages, Blakestown Road, Clonsilla, Dublin 15, D15HE29							
Email Address:	homestart.annmurray@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Provider:	Ann Murray							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	ü	Part-Time	ü	Sessional	ü		
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	The registered provider proposes to change service type from part time / sessional to full day care, part time and sessional.							
Proposed Number of Children:	38							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Up to 38 preschool children at any one time attending on a full day care basis.							
Registered change:	Addition of a service type from Part Time / Sessional to Full Day Care / Part Time / Sessional Change in hours of operation from 09:00 – 13:00 & 13:15 – 17:00 to 09:00 – 17:00							
Date of Inspection:	3	0	0	4	2	0	2	6
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Harte and T. Nelson							
Title:	Early Years Inspectors							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5, The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin, Dublin 15, D15 CF9K							

Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care/ Part Time/ Sessional Service for 38 Children
Date of Registration	31st July 2026



Child and Family Agency Act 2013
Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016

Version 05
Implemented- Aug 2022
EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)

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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	Blanchardstown Home Start is a part-time day care service located in a residential area of Dublin 15 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 38 children at any one time aged 0 to 6 years Monday to Friday. The service operates two sessions, 9.00am to 1.00pm, and an afternoon session from 1.15pm to 5.00pm.
Premises	The proposed service will operate from two buildings within the premises, the Creche and the Treehouse. The creche is a converted residential building with rooms to include the Bears and Cubs room (8 months to 2.5 years old), sanitary facilities for children and staff, a cot room, a family room, a play therapy room and office. The treehouse is a building to the rear of the premises which has two care rooms, to include the Rainforest Room (3 to 4 years old) and the Sunshine room (2 to 3 years old). Further sanitary facilities are available in this building. A fully enclosed outdoor area is located to rear of the premises by the treehouse building. A small enclosed outdoor play space is positioned behind the cubs and bear's room.
Staffing	The registered provider proposes to work in the service themselves and employ twelve adults to work in the service including deputy person in charge, family liaison co-ordinator and ten qualified early years professionals. Additionally, the service proposes to employ five adults engaged in a Community Employment (CE) programme one of whom will work in the kitchen and one who will work as a maintenance person.
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.

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	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 Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children 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—</i> <i>(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.</i>	
Requirement met:	The requirement is met. (1) (a) The service has a designated person in charge, and a named staff member is available to deputise as 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:	(1) The registered provider stated that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children attending the service. It is proposed that there will be up to 10 adults caring for the proposed 38 full time children.

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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.*
- (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 or*
 - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*

Requirement met:

The requirement is partially met.

(1)

(a) The proposed care rooms will provide suitable facilities for the children in the 0 to 6 years age range to play indoors.

- There is an adequate and suitable supply of toys and resources available to support a range of play experiences.
- The furniture in the care rooms is suitable for the age and stage of development of the proposed children.
- Toys and equipment are available on low-level shelving. They are visible and accessible for children.

(b)

- There are cosy areas available in the care rooms for children to take a break from activities.

(3)

(a) There are outdoor play areas available which are fully enclosed. The first outdoor play area is located to the rear of the cubs and bear's room. The second outdoor play area is beside the Treehouse building. A range of toys are present to facilitate physical play experiences for the proposed age range.

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Requirement not met:	(1)(b) 1. There is an inadequate number of sleep facilities available for the proposed number of children who may require sleep under the age of two. 2. The barrier height on one cot was insufficient.
Response from Provider:	1. Purchased new floor beds. 2. Reduced the barrier cot height.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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 is partially met. • There is an on-site kitchen where the service will prepare and provide snacks. • There is a healthy food policy in place. • Children will have access to drinking water in the care rooms.
Requirement not met:	1. There is no plan available for sufficient hot meals for the proposed full day care children.
Response from Provider:	1. Management have completed the hot meal template for children in full day care.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is met.

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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 is partially met.

The following are examples of the measures taken to safeguard children:

- The main entrance door to the premises is monitored and managed by staff to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and restrict unauthorised access.
- Emergency exits are clearly indicated and are unobstructed.
- The outdoor areas are secure.
- Liquid soap and hand towels are hygienically dispensed.
- Highchairs are in good condition and fitted with safety harnesses.
- There is safe storage of hazardous items such as sharp utensils and cleaning agents.
- Play materials are safe and suitable for use.

Requirement not met:

General Safety

1. There are trailing cables in the cot room and a trailing cable from the radiator in the rainforest room.
2. No template risk assessment was available for a child with specific medical needs.
3. There are no visibility strips on the glass door leading to the outdoor area in the cubs and bear's room.
4. Tall heavy furniture in the sanitary area beside the cubs and bears room is not anchored to the wall.
5. The cot closest to the cot room door does not have a sufficient clearing space of 50cm.
6. Radiators that are accessible to children are not listed on the risk assessment for the treehouse building.

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	Infection Control - Cot mattresses are not wipeable and did not include a wipeable waterproof cover. - A lidded bin was not available and was required in the cubs and bear's room. - There is no foot pedal bin in the treehouse nappy changing area. Safe sleep - There is no sleep plan or risk assessment template available for children under two years of age who are proposed to sleep on floor beds.
Response from Provider:	- Cable cover has been added to all trailing wires. - Risk assessment has been completed. - Stickers added to windows and additional visibility strips. - Unit anchored to wall. - The cot was moved back to create a sufficient clearing space of 50cm. Area cleared behind the cot and radiator moved to be sufficient distance. - Radiators added to room and manager risk assessment. - New waterproof covers purchased. - Lidded bin purchased. - Foot pedal bin purchased. - Sleep plan edited to include risk assessment for children under 2 years of age. A risk assessment template is available for all under 2's who are proposed to sleep on floor beds.
Summary Comment:	The requirement is 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:

The requirement is met.

- (1) Documentary evidence is available that there will be a staff member trained to First Aid Responder level available to the children during the operational hours of the service.
- (2)
 (a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes are available in easily identifiable locations throughout the premises.
 (b) The first aid box is easily accessible to adults.

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 is met.

- (1) A record of the following is available:
 (a) There is a template available to record fire drills that take place in the service.
 (b) A written record is available to demonstrate the firefighting equipment in the premises was maintained in June 2025 and the smoke alarms were maintained in March 2026.
- (4) There is a notice displayed in the care rooms of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire with a clear route indicated to the fire assembly point.

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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 is 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.

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 is partially met.

(a) The premises appears to be of a sound and stable structure.

(b) The entrance door to the service is secured adequately to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons from gaining access. Entry and exit are managed by staff.

(c)

- Windows provide natural lighting to the care rooms. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights are fitted with protective covers.
- The proposed care rooms have openable windows, and the sanitary accommodation is fitted with either an operating mechanical ventilation system or openable windows.
- A heating system is in place.

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	(e) There are adequate sanitary facilities for the proposed number of staff. One toilet and one sink is required for every 8 adults. There are 3 staff toilets available. There are adequate toileting facilities for the number of proposed toilet trained children attending. One toilet and one sink is required for every 11 children who use a toilet. There are four children's toilets available.
Requirement not met:	(d) The service was not cleaned and maintained in good repair. • Mechanical vents are heavily dusted in the main building children's sanitary area. • There is damaged wall plaster in the cubs and bear's room. • There is damaged flooring in the cubs and bear's room. • There is damaged wood with chipped and peeling paint on the room divider in the cubs and bear's room. • The sink in the treehouse building nappy changing sanitary area is not emptying correctly. (e) The premises is not equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities for children in nappies. 1. The sanitary facilities available in the main building are not sufficient to provide for the proposed number of 13 children attending the cubs and bears room who are wearing nappies. There is one nappy changing unit available. One nappy changing unit is required for every 11 children. 2. The fold down nappy changing unit in the treehouse building is not appropriate for the proposed age range attending.
Response from Provider:	(d) • Vents replaced and have been added to monthly cleaning checklist. • The wall has been plastered and painted and has a protective cover to prevent chipping. • Flooring in the cubs and bears room has been replaced.

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	- The room divider has been sanded and painted. - Sink has been checked and cleared of blockage. (e) - New fold down changing mat installed. - New changing unit installed meeting the requirements for proposed age range.
Summary Comment:	Requirement is 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1) There is adequate floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement of up to 38 children to attend the proposed pre-school service at any one time. A total of 95.64 m² is available.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the required minimum floor space per age range is available for the proposed 38 full day care children attending as demonstrated by the table below:

Room Name	Age range	Space required	Space available
Cubs and bears	8 months - 2.5 years	0-1 year 3.5 m ² 1-2 years 2.8 m ² 2-3 years 2.35 m ²	54.8 m ²
Sunshine	2-3.5 years	2-3 years 2.35 m ² 3-6 years 2.3 m ²	20.8 m ²
Rainforest	3-4 years	3-6 years 2.3 m ² Sessional care 1.818 m ²	20.04 m ²