

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D:	TU2020RN002					
Name of Service	Happy Feet Childcare Tarmon Preschool					
Address of Service:	Ballinphill, Tarmon, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon, F45 P281					
Email Address:	info@happyfeetchildcare.ie					
Name of Registered Provider:	Anita Flynn					
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	☐	Part-Time	☐	Sessional	☐
	Drop-In	☐	Childminding	☐	Temporary	☐
Proposed change:	Change of service address from Tarmon National school to Ballinphull Tarmon. Change in number of children from 15 to 34. Change of service type from sessional-to-sessional full day care. Change of hours of operation from 9:15 to 12 :15hr to 08:00 to 18:00hrs					
Proposed Number of Children:	34 children					
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Approve proposed change of address Change of number of children to attend from 15 to 34 Change of service type from sessional-to-sessional full day care. Change of hours of operation to 8:00 to 18:00 hrs.					
Registered change:	Change of service address from Tarmon National school to Ballinphull Tarmon. Change in number of children from 15 to 34.					

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	Change of service type from sessional-to-sessional full day care. Change of hours of operation from 9:15 to 12 :15hr to 08:00 to 18:00hrs
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Date of Inspection:	1	8	0	5	2	0	2	6
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Inspection undertaken by:	A. Kennedy
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.
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Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day & Sessional Service for 34 Children
Date of Registration	21 May 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	This newly extensive renovated detached premises is located within close proximity of the local primary school and is within a three-mile radius of the town of Castlerea. The service presently operates from a classroom with the national school on a sessional basis. The service is proposing to operate a full day care service from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional care pre-school programmes will also offer in the service. The service is proposing to cater for children from 2-6 years. The service is presently registered for a maximum number of 15 pre-school children, at any one time and it is proposing to extend this to 34 children.
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Premises	There are four play areas, namely the robin room and the ladybird room. There is a designated kitchen where the main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. Quiet rest areas are available for children to opt out of an activity if he/ she wishes to do so. A large outdoor area is available for children's play.
Staffing	There is a named designated person in charge and a person able to deputise. There will be four staff working directly with the preschool children on a daily basis in the proposed two preschool rooms. The staff working directly with children have at least a major award Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.
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 who was 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 service has a designated person in charge and a named person who can 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1) It is proposed that there will be four staff working directly with the pre-school children. The registered provider will ensure that the adult child ratio is adhered to. One adult to eleven children aged 2 years 6 months attending the sessional service and one adult to 6 children aged 2-3 years proposing to attend the full day care service and one adult to 8 children aged 3-5 years.

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,

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises 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:

(1)(a) The design, organisation, and resourcing of the indoor and outdoor environment will be able to support each child's wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service.

The playrooms were designed and arranged to

- maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter,

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- divided into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support proposed children's play, development, and learning,
- give all proposed children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development.

The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was thereby readily accessible to the proposed pre-school children.

The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, and designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.

There were opportunities for imaginary play with dress up clothing, role play construction and kitchen areas.

There were messy water and sand play areas. There was a selection of transport vehicles, mark making, reading materials.

- Creative play with art and craft materials, paper, paint, glue, glitter, pencils, crayons, stencils, and recycled materials.
- Language and literacy play with visual aids, books flashcards, matching games,
- Gross motor play with footballs, slides, tractors, and push cars in the outdoor play areas.
- Fine motor play with pegs, scissors, magnets, threading, stacking, mix and match, puzzles, jigsaws, and blocks.

The registered provider advised that toys, materials, and equipment would be rotated on a seasonal theme basis.

(1)(b) A rest quiet area was provided in each room in the form of a couch with cushions and blankets to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to.

(2)(b) Outdoor area

The registered provider advised that the outdoor area was an extension of the indoor environment. The children would have the opportunity to be outside as often as possible, in all weather conditions.

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In the outdoor area, the children have access to seesaws, climbing frames, digging opportunities, play slides and climbing opportunities, playhouses and a mud kitchen, The designated outdoor play area was to the rear of the premises and is securely fenced and gated.

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 service had a healthy eating policy.
- It is proposed that the service will provide food for the children's snack and mealtimes.
- A cook is employed to prepare, cook and serve the meals and snacks daily in the service.
- A -weekly menu plan is in place.
- The registered provider advised that the children would be provided with breakfast between 8 and 9am of a selection of cereals, juice and water.
- At 11 00hrs they would be provided with their morning snack brought from home.
- At 12.30hrs a hot dinner would be served.
- At 14.45hrs an evening snack would be provided.
- It was advised there will be a supply of food for any child requiring additional food.
- A drinks table/shelf is available in the playrooms during play to allow the children the opportunity to 'self-serve' their drinks.
- Perishables items will be stored in designated fridges in the playrooms.

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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:

General Safety

- The designated entrance was secure to prevent unauthorised entry and prevent unsupervised children leaving the pre-school.
- The kitchen, office and staff room, were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- The external play area was secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- The fire doors were unobstructed
- An additional securing mechanism is fitted on the thumb lock doors.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- The playroom temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing without risk of scalding the children, was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Visibility posters are placed on the low-level glass.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- The openable windows were high and thereby inaccessible to a child.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- The service had a risk assessment system for checking that toys and equipment were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.
- The registered provider clearly identified to the early year's inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.

Infection Control

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and a hand towel dispenser.

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	- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. - The registered provider advised that the outdoor play equipment would be cleaned prior to/ after a child's use, with documented records maintained. - A refrigerator was provided in the playrooms for the storage of perishable foods. - The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels. - There was a cleaning schedule and cleaning records for the materials, equipment, and furnishings. - Waste is disposed of in the sanitary area and playrooms in foot pedalled lidded bins and thereby inaccessible to the pre-school children. Administration of Medication - The registered provider demonstrated clear knowledge of safe practices regarding the administration of medication. Fire Safety - All exit routes from the service were free from obstruction during the inspection.
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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) The service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid responder is available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. Four staff members had current training in first aid for children. (2)(a) In each room there was a first box with first aid content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.
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(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid cabinets/boxes were fully equipped and available to the children

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) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills.

(b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 12th of March 2026. The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 16th of February 2026.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the playrooms.

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.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the registration office prior to the inspection. The services had an insurance quotation with a commencement date of 2nd of April 2026 and an expiry date 27th of March 2027 for a full day care service for 76 children and included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

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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 requirements have been met.

(a) From a visual inspection the indoor playrooms were sound and stable. structure and there were no observable indications of defects.

(b) The playrooms and the outdoor play areas were safe and secure. The main entrance door to the premises has a securing mechanism in place with a keypad access security system. The internal door to the kitchen, office and staff room was secure with a securing device to prevent children accessing these areas.

(c) There was natural lighting in the playrooms from openable windows on the outer walls. The playrooms were well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors.

The pre-school service was adequately lit with natural light provided from the windows in addition to artificial lights on the playroom ceilings. The tube light fittings in the playrooms and the light fittings in the sanitary areas had protective covers in place.

The heating system that was thermostatically controlled to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C for the playrooms.

On the day of inspection, the room temperature was maintained at 20.6°C.

The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature of 38°C and the person in charge advised it would be no greater than 43°C.

(d) In the proposed indoor playrooms, the play and work equipment were clean and in good repair. Cleaning equipment was safely stored on high shelves or in the sluice/cleaning room inaccessible to pre-school children.

From observation, the furnished playrooms were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

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	(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided. There were two designated children's toilets with two designated children's wash hand basins. off each of the playrooms There was two designated nappy changing areas with a wash hand basin adjacent. There were three designated adults only toilets in the building and a designated wash hand basin, in each area. Liquid soap dispensers and paper hand towels in designated dispensers were within easy access to a pre-school child. Foot pedal lidded bins were provided in the sanitary areas and the nappy changing area. The service uses a public water supply and sewage system.
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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:	(1) Adequate floor space was provided for the free movement of children to work and play. (2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children. (4) The measurement of the proposed playroom floor space was 36.89 square meters in the Ladybird room and 25.35 square meters in the Robin room thus, ensuring a minimum of 2.35 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the full day care service.
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