

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2026WW100							
Name of Service:	Cocoon Childcare							
Address of Service:	Sorrel Wood, Blessington, Co. Wicklow W91 EAH6							
Email Address:	info@cocoonchildcare.ie							
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Nicola Battams							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	☒	Part-Time	☐	Drop-In	☐		
	Sessional	☒	Childminding	☐	Temporary	☐		
Proposed service type:	Full Day Care, sessional							
Proposed Number of Children:	105							
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Proposed service approved for up to 105 pre-school children aged 0-6 years attending for full day care, and sessional hours. Opening hours 07:30-18:30 each weekday for 51 weeks of the year.							
Registered service:	Service Registered							
Date of Inspection:	1	7	0	6	2	0	2	6
Inspection Undertaken by:	R Phillips & S. Early O'Brien							
Title:	Early Years Inspectors							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Level 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmain Dublin 8							
Rationale for Inspection								
Proposed New Service								
Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office								
Registration Status:	Registered							
Date of Registration:	14.07.2026							

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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 new privately operated Early years' service is located in a residential area in Blessington Co. Wicklow. The service will provide full day care and sessional childcare to children aged between 0-6 years. Opening times will be between 07:30-18:30 Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year. The provider currently operates 17 registered early years services.
Premises	The provider proposes to operate from a purpose-built setting with six care rooms and two designated sleep rooms. There are three care rooms on the ground floor, and three on the first floor where children will be accommodated according to their age and stage of development. The building also includes sanitary facilities, a reception area, an office, a kitchen and storage rooms. An enclosed outdoor area is available at the side and rear of the premises.
Staffing	The service has a manager and deputy manager, a chef and childcare practitioners employed presently. Future staffing will depend on the number of children attending and their ages. The registered provider in discussion demonstrated an awareness of staffing levels required for the number and age range of children who may be registered.
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 are based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff. These 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

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	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 registered provider, person in charge and operations managers who were present on the day of the inspection.

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:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named person 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)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required. There are nine staff members available to commence employment.

It is acknowledged that the person in charge is aware of the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 and will ensure that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the pre-school children in the service. The staffing complement will increase depending on the number of children present and their ages.

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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 care rooms are fully equipped with a range of play materials and equipment suitable to the age range of the children who will be attending. There are low level tables and chairs and open shelving so the children will be able to access the materials for manipulative, creative, sensory and imaginative play.

(1)(b) The care rooms each have a suitable rest area, with soft mats and cushions available for children to take a break from activities.

There are a total of 16 cots in the two designated sleep rooms on the ground floor. There are also 2 floor beds and 30 stackable floor beds in storage areas throughout the service, available to facilitate the children who may require sleep. The provider reported that children over two years of age will be accommodated to sleep within their care room.

(2)(a) The enclosed outdoor area adjacent to the premises provides space for the children who will be attending to promote their gross motor development, with ride on toys, slide and climbing structures and sensory experiences with sand, water and a seesaw. The ground is covered with artificial grass, and natural grass. The outdoor area is fully enclosed and secured to prevent unauthorised entry or a child exiting unsupervised. The outdoor area is new, well maintained and no hazards were observed.

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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:

The requirement has been met.

A full-time chef is employed by the service.

A four-week menu plan is available.

Drinking water will be visible and available to all children in the care rooms.

Three meals and two snacks will be offered to children attending as per the menu plan.

Refrigerated storage facilities are available for perishable snacks. Children attending on a sessional basis will bring their lunch from home.

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 external environment and doors are secure to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised access.
- There are no hazards in the outdoor areas.
- The staircase is adequately lit, the floor is coated in non-slip floor resin and handrails are provided.
- There are no loose cables, exposed bolts or sharp edges or pinch or crush points on toys or equipment.
- The service has an infection control policy in place to guide practice and avoid spread of infection.
- Water is thermostatically controlled to maintain the temperature below 43°C.
- There is provision for the appropriate storage and disposal of waste with the use of pedal operated bins in the sanitary areas and care rooms.

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- Cleaning schedules are in place, and cleaning materials are appropriately stored out of reach of children.
- Blind cords are secured out of reach of children.
- Fire exits are signposted and unobstructed throughout the service.

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) The roster and First Aid Responder training certificates provides evidence that an adult who has in date First Aid Responder training will be available to the children at all times of opening. Three staff have in date FAR training certificates.
- (2) (a)(b) Two suitably equipped first aid boxes are provided. One in the office on the ground floor, the other is on the landing on the first floor. Both are stored in an easily accessible conspicuous place.

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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 is met.

- (1)(a) The registered provider has stated that fire drills will be carried out on a monthly basis. A template is available for recording same.
 (b) There is a record available relating to the number type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and for the fire detection and alarm system.
 (4) Fire action signs and fire evacuation procedures to be followed in the event of a fire are displayed conspicuously in the care rooms and the fire assembly point is clearly identifiable.

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 that insurance is in place for the required number of children and type of service was observed.

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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 full day care service will operate out of a purpose-built building, over two levels. The registered provider confirmed that the premises is of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The registered provider has taken appropriate measures to safeguard the premises. The front doors are secured with keypad controlled locking systems. The outdoor area was secured to prevent a child leaving unsupervised or an unauthorised person accessing the service.
- (c) The care rooms are adequately lit with natural and artificial lighting. The lighting can be turned down manually for sleep. Blinds are also fitted to control light levels. The care rooms were comfortable temperatures with thermostatically controlled wall mounted radiators. The temperatures of rooms were recorded between 18-22° Celsius. The service has an air exchange system that maintains air temperature and provides ventilation. There is mechanical ventilation in the care rooms and sanitary areas also. The windows provide additional ventilation.
- (d) The premises and surrounding environment are clean and well maintained. Cleaning schedules are in place, and cleaning equipment is available and safely stored out of the reach of children. The services of a pest control contract were confirmed.
- (e) The service is equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. There are 2 children's toilets and 3 low-level sinks downstairs, as well as five children's toilets and five sinks upstairs in the sanitary areas adjacent to the care rooms. There are five nappy changing facilities altogether, with three downstairs, with adequate sinks for adults and children's level sinks adjacent. There are four staff toilets available, two of which are wheelchair accessible. All sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped

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with toilet paper, liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated bins. There are additional sinks available in the care rooms for hand washing at other times.

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) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child 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:

The requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children attending the service.

(2)(4) There is sufficient clear floor space to accommodate the proposed number of **105** children in respect of their age range, as outlined below.

Room Name (name on plans)	Age Range (years)	Proposed Maximum number of children	Type of service	Minimum Space Required	Space Available	Maximum number of children
Toddler 1 (Rm 1)	(1-2)	15	FDC	42 m ²	43 m ²	15
	(2-3)	18		42 m ²		18
Baby (Rm 2)	0-1	9	FDC	31.5 m ²	33.41m ²	9
	1-2	11		30.8 m ²		11
Wobbler (Rm 3)	2-3	18	FDC	42.3m ²	42.6 m ²	18
	1-2	15		42m ²		15
Toddler 2 (Rm 4)	2-3	18	FDC	42.3 m ²	42 m ²	17

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	Preschool 1 (Rm 5)	2-3	20	FDC	47m ²	46.68m ²	19
		3-6	20	FDC	46m ²		20
		2-6	20	ECCE	36.36m ²		20
	Preschool 2 (Rm 6)	2-3	22	FDC	51.7m ²	51.7m ²	22
		3-6	22	FDC	50.6m ²		22
		2-6	22	ECCE	39.9m ²		22