

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC468				
Name of Service:	Kildinan Preschool				
Address of Service:	Bushy Park, Kildinan, Co Cork				
Eircode:	T56 DN29				
Name of Registered Provider:	Minna Murphy				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	06/05/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>16</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	16	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	13 Markert Place Mallow Co Cork P51DD5Y				
Inspection undertaken by:	B Fraher				
Title:	Early Years Inspector				

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable N/A

Description of service

Kildinan Preschool is a private sessional service in operation since 2015. It accommodates children between 2 and 6 years of age, operating in the morning from 9:30 to 12:30, facilitating the Early Years Care and Education (ECCE) scheme, 38 weeks of the year.

The service is situated in the rural area of Kildinan near Rathcormac town in North Cork and operates from a purpose-built facility adjoining the family farm which has a separate secure entryway. It consists of a hall in which there are entrances to children's toilets and one adult toilet, and a care room which leads to a secure outdoor play area. A carpark is located the side of the service.

Staffing

The service employs four staff members who work directly with the children which includes the registered provider, an AIM support worker and a relief staff member.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulations 9-Management and recruitment, Regulation 11-Staffing levels, Regulation 16-Records of a preschool child. regulation 19-Health, welfare and

development of child, Regulation 23-Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child, Regulation 24-Checking in and out and records of attendance and Regulation 28- Insurance; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation-25 First aid. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the children, registered provider and staff 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,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

(a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,

(b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,

(c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and

(d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The registered provider was the person in charge and there was a named deputy in the service that could deputise as required.
- (b) The registered provider and the deputy were on duty at the service when the inspector arrived. The staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or the deputy were on duty at all times during the hours of operation.
- (c) There was clear evidence on inspection of the management structure in place and the specific roles of the staff members.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to four adults who were employed in the service were the subject of inspection.
- (a) Of the eight required references, four were from previous employers with required records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the eight required references, four were from a source other than a past employer with records of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were obtained and were on file for four adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting time frames as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory notice, requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.

(d) International vetting records were on file for two adults who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4) Records demonstrated that four of the staff had achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 to 8 as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children in attendance at all times.

(2) The service exceeded the minimum ratio required as per regulation in the care room. The 16 children attending the service were cared for by 3 adults.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(j) The inspector reviewed medication administration. On discussion with the registered provider and staff, no child had been administered medication in the service. Temperature reducing medicine was available and in date and consent for administration was signed in the enrolment forms. Medication administration could also be recorded in the digital application where parents can return signed consent to the service.

(k) The inspector reviewed the accident and incidents records on the digital application. A sample of 10 records were reviewed, and all contained the required information.

Non-Compliance Information

(i)
On the day of inspection, the service did not have a staff roster in place, posing a potential risk that the adult child ratios may not be met.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following statement was made by the registered provider:

Corrective and Preventive Action

Staff rosters have been updated and will remain up to date in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

The statement from the registered provider was accepted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 16. This will be reviewed at next inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, the following information was obtained through direct observation and discussion with the staff and examination of the relevant documents.

Basic needs:

- All snacks had been prepared by the parents and were observed to be healthy and nutritious. Children were observed to eat fruit, crackers, yogurt, sandwiches and rice cakes.
- Individual drinking water bottles were readily available to the children indoors and outdoors.
- Children in the care room were observed accessing the toilet area independently and staff were available to provide assistance if required.
- Children's independence was promoted by staff in the care room. An example of this was when children changed from outdoor shoes to indoor shoes. Staff offered assistance if required.
- The care room had a rest area with suitable soft furnishings. Such as a couch and seat mats for the floor and books were stored within access.
- Outdoor games and activities were promoted and observed, with the children accessing the outdoor area twice on the day of inspection.
- Appropriate seating was used in the form of low-level tables and chairs.
- Staff supported and encouraged the children to attend to their own needs such as supporting a child to wipe their nose and wash their hands afterwards.

Supporting relationships:

- Throughout the day, staff were heard engaging in social conversation with the children which helped promote a relaxed and happy atmosphere.

- Interactions between the staff and children was observed to be warm and sensitive. An example included when children were encouraged to make up the letters of their name using letters provided and when they played jumping jelly beans together.
- A special day in a child's life was observed to be celebrated with a child wearing a birthday crown and all the children singing happy birthday together.
- Parents and guardians were communicated with via email, digital application, at drop off and collection and at arranged times if needed.
- Staff were observed to encourage positive behaviour, encouraging children to be gentle with each other during play.
- A key worker system was in place in the service.

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.

Compliance Information

General safety:

- The entrance door was secured on the inspector's arrival to the service. This restricted unauthorised access to the building and prevented the risk of children exiting unsupervised.
- The windows to the service were out of reach of the children and were fitted with restrictors.
- Cleaning agents were kept out of reach of the children.
- Appropriate room temperature was recorded in the care room of 20°C.
- The outdoor area was secured by a timber fence and wooded gates with a small area of metal fencing. The gates were secured during the time of operation.
- The indoor toys and equipment observed were well maintained and in good condition.

Infection control:

- The children were observed to change from outdoor to indoor shoes before coming into the care room.
- Handwashing facilities were accessible to the children with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Children were observed to wash their hands before snack and after outdoor play.

- The temperature of the warm water was within the appropriate range throughout the sanitary accommodations and was recorded between 36.6°C to 37.9°C.
- Lidded pedal bins were in use for the disposal of waste in the sanitary areas and care rooms.
- Children's bags were stored off the ground.
- A refrigerator was available in the care room for the storage of perishable foods.

Fire safety:

- Fire exits were noted to be free from obstruction.
- All fire extinguishers seen were wall mounted.

Outing:

- No outings were conducted on the day of inspection. The person in charge informed the inspector that occasional walks are taken with a risk assessment completed prior to this occurring.

Non-Compliance Information

General safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for four staff members. However, two vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory notice 'EYI-RN12'. Renewal of Garda vetting.
2. One outdoor table that children were observed to play at had a broken corner with sharp edges. This posed a risk of injury to a child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following statement was made by the registered provider:

Corrective & Preventive Action:

General safety:

1. Garda vetting was renewed for the two required staff members. The service plans to reapply for all staff members to keep renewal dates at the same time. A schedule has been set up of a reminder of renewal dates.
2. The outdoor table has been removed from the pre-school service.

Supporting documentation submitted

General safety:

1. Proof of Garda vetting renewal for two staff members was received in the office of the inspectorate.

2. The statement from the registered provider has been accepted.

Summary Comment

The action taken from the registered provider has addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) The attendance record was recorded on a digital application. The inspector observed that all children had been checked in and out for the duration of inspection.

(3)(b) Visitors records were kept in writing of any person entering the premises and the inspector was asked to sign in on arrival to the premises.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was no staff member with up to date First Aid Responder training (FAR) on duty on the day of inspection during the hours the service was operational. It was acknowledged that two staff on duty had paediatric first aid training. This poses a health risk to both the staff and the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following statement was issued by the registered provider:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The manager has now completed FAR training. A schedule has been set up with a reminder of renewal dates.

Supporting documentation submitted

Proof of booking of the course was received in the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The action taken by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 25. This will be reviewed at next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The insurance certificate indicated that sufficient cover was in place for the provision of a sessional service and the policy was valid until 27 March 2025.