

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE064				
Name of Service:	Kidz Haven Creche				
Address of Service:	8 An Rosan Oir, Ballycasey, Shannon, Co. Clare				
Eircode:	V14 EV62				
Name of Registered Provider:	Siobhan Mulderrig				
Service type:	Full Day, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	17/09/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>26</td> <td>PM</td> <td>22</td> </tr> </table>	AM	26	PM	22
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare
Inspection undertaken by:	J. Hayes & A. McCarthy
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Not applicable

Description of service

Kidz Haven Creche was established in 2004, as a privately owned service in Shannon, County Clare. A programme of care and education is provided Monday to Friday 07:30 to 17:30 for children ranging in age from one to six years. The service is facilitated in a two storey adapted premises and modular structure to rear of the building. A large enclosed outdoor play area is located to the side and rear of the premises.

Staffing

Nine adults are employed in the service. The registered provider, the manager and seven adults were present during the inspection. The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications on the National Framework of Qualifications ranging from Level 5 to Level 8.

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 focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4)

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (2) (8)(a)

Regulation 16(1)(i)(k)

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid (1)(2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26- Fire safety measures (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 28- Insurance

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 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

(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

(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)

During the inspection the registered provider and a named person in charge were available as required.

(b)

On the 17 September 2025 the registered provider and the person in charge were available on the premises.

(2)

Nine files were available for the registered provider and adults employed by the service. These files were reviewed, and the following was noted:

(2)(a)

Eleven references with evidence of verification were available from past employers.

- (b)
Seven references with evidence of verification were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c)
Garda Vetting disclosures were available in respect all adults employed by the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d)
International police vetting was available in respect of one adult who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.
- (4)
The adults working directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from level 5 to 8 or a recognised equivalent qualification 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.*
- (2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (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,*

Compliance Information

- (1)
During the inspection an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children who attended the service.
- (2)
An adequate number of adults cared for the children at all times during the inspection. On the 17 September 2025 six adults cared for the twenty six children attending the service. The registered provider was also available if required to provide relief cover in care rooms.
- (8)(a)
The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available on the premises at all times.

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

Compliance Information

- (1)
(i)
A staff roster was available detailing the rostered hours for all the adults employed by the service.
- (k)
Ten accident, injury or incident forms were reviewed. These forms were adequately completed with a signed parental signature after the incident occurred.

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

(1)(a)

Three care rooms were in operation during the inspection, and the findings are as follows:

Basic Needs of Children:

The meals and the snacks provided to the children on the day of inspection were suitable and nutritious. Dinners were provided by the service and cooked onsite. The dinners consisted of chicken, broccoli and rice. Children's snacks were provided by the parents/guardians, and any perishable foods were stored in fridges. Drinks of water were offered with meals and were freely available to the children throughout the day, including when children spent time playing outside. Additional food was available should any child be hungry and wish to have additional food.

Staff supported the children with toileting if required and children were reminded to wash their hands. Nappies were changed on a scheduled basis and also if needed in between these times. Children slept on a scheduled basis after dinner with cots and stackable beds used appropriately according to the age group of children. All children could move about freely within their playrooms and into the outdoor spaces accessible from each playroom and there was no restriction placed on their movement.

The adults that were working directly with the children were allocated to the same room daily and the children were observed to be very comfortable in their care. Children were observed to seek the support of adults when needed and were responded to promptly. The children were observed to play alone and play in small and large groups. The children were observed to help each other, and this was encouraged by the adults. The adults encouraged the children to be independent, and support was given if needed.

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 to the service was secured to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The outdoor play areas were secured with fencing, walls and gates to protect the children within.
- The children's arrival and departure times were recorded in written records in each care room.
- A record book was available to record visitors to the service.
- Cleaning agents were stored in secured areas out of reach of the children.
- The kitchen in the service was inaccessible to children.
- The blind cords were secured at each of the windows.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, towels and lidded, lined pedal operated bins.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals after activities, after using the toilet and on return from outdoor play and before mealtime.
- The children's personal belongings were stored individually.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered during the inspection.
- An administration of medication record book was available for use by staff should medication be required.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were placed to sleep in their individual standard cots and low-level beds in the sleep room and care rooms.
- A thermometer was available in the sleep room and care room where children were placed to sleep for the adults to measure and monitor the room temperatures. The room temperatures were maintained between the required temperature of 16 to 20 °Celsius and 18 to 22°Celsius.
- Children's sleep observations were recorded.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exits and routes were clear from obstruction throughout the service.
- Written records of completed monthly fire drills were available.
- A fire assembly point was readily identifiable and identified by the adults working in the service.
- Evidence of completed fire training was available on staff files.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)

Two adults had a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training and the staff roster indicated that an adult with First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available in the service at all times.

(2)(a)

Suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored in accessible and conspicuous areas in each care room in the service.

(b)

The first aid boxes were available in the service for use by the adults 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.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were carried out by the service. The last fire drill took place on the 19 August 2025.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system took place on 19 August 2025.

(4)

Fire action notices were displayed demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for 50 children. The insurance policy for the full day care service is valid until the 27 March 2026.