

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN028
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Name of Service:	Kavan Kids Kreche Ltd
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Address of Service:	Maple Avenue, The Gallops, Latt, Cavan, Co. Cavan
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Eircode:	H12 A466
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anna McCarron, Rachel Berns
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	25/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	41	PM	18
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath C15 CP23
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham & D Murray
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
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Description of service

Kavan Kids Kreche Ltd is a privately run service in operation since 2006. It provides full day care and sessional services to pre-school children aged 0 – 6 years of age. The service operates a sessional service under the ECCE scheme from 9:30am – 12:30pm. The service operates from a two-storey building with three care rooms on the ground floor namely the Baby Room (not in use on the day of inspection), the Junior Room and the Montessori/Senior Room with two care rooms on the first floor - Room 1 ECCE and Room 2 ECCE.

Staffing

Twelve staff are employed in the service, which includes the two registered providers, a manager, assistant manager and a cook.

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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 providers, 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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.
- (2) (a)&(b) Twenty-four validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 12 staff within the required timeframe of every 3 years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for the staff member who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) All childcare staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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) Present on the day of inspection were 8 childcare staff which included manager, deputy person in charge, and one of the registered providers who arrived shortly after the inspection began caring for 41 children. The second registered provider arrived at approximately 12.40pm following the sessional service finishing in their other service.

(2) The following adult to child ratios were observed,

The **Baby** room not in use on the day of inspection.

The **Junior** room had 7 children ranging in age from 1 year 6 months to 2 years 6 months being cared for by 2 staff.

Montessori/Senior room had 10 children ranging in age from 2 years 8 months to 4 years age being cared for by 2 staff.

Room 1 ECCE had 14 children ranging in age from 3 years to 5 years being cared for by 2 staff.

Upstairs:

Room 2 ECCE had 10 children ranging in age from 2 years 9 months to 4 years 7 months being cared for by 1 staff.

(8) (a) According to the staff roster presented to the Early Years Inspectors the registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

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,

Compliance Information

1)(a) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic needs:

- Staff members were observed changing children's nappies regularly and in a timely manner with warm one-to-one interactions observed. The older children were encouraged to become independent and self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development which included using the toilet, hand washing, caring for their belongings and tidying away after activities and play.
- The staff members sat and chatted with the children at mealtimes, helping the children when required whilst encouraging conversation and extending interactions.
- Staff supported children's learning with activities that were observed to be fun and creative. The theme of the month was "Autumn" and "Halloween" with children's artwork displayed to reflect these themes.

- The service embraces outdoor play and learning with all children observed enjoying outdoor play with their peers on the day of inspection.

Supporting relationships around children:

- Transitions were handled smoothly as the children were given ample time to complete one activity before starting the next.
- The adults were observed promoting positive behaviour and supported children to find positive solutions when they experienced challenge in sharing play equipment and materials. In the Junior room any child who became upset were nurtured and cuddled until they settled. The children showed confidence around the staff members and sought out staff members for reassurance, comfort and support.
- Parents were greeted at collection time with friendly conversation overheard. The new children appeared happy and relaxed in their new environment.

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-

(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

Compliance Information

(1)(b) Cosy areas consisting of mats and cushions were available if a child needed to take a break from activities and rest. One cot room was available for the children under 2 years with a total of 5 standard cots an additional cot was available in the Baby room.

(3)(a) There were 2 outdoor spaces which were suitable and secure.

The outdoor area on the ground floor accommodated the younger children and was enclosed and secure with a cement surface.

The outdoor area on the first floor facilitated the children in the ECCE room 1&2. This area was also enclosed and secure with a grass surface.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The rooms were designated according to the age group of the children using them:

- The playrooms were laid out with uncluttered, clear floor spaces for the children to play safely.
- Children equipment was stored on low level shelves to assist children select and replace items of interest.

The opportunity for different types of play and learning were available and accessible in all the rooms.

The outdoor areas had equipment appropriate to the age range of the children using the space.

Equipment in the outdoor area on the ground floor included sand table, play house, ride on toys, basketball hoops, and a shed for storage of additional equipment.

Equipment in the outdoor area on the first floor included climbing tunnel, climbing frame with a slide, tree stumps as seats, footballs and goal posts, planting containers, wooded area, digging pit, sand/water table, hula hoops and a slide.

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.

Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy with a weekly menu available. The food was prepared and cooked freshly on the premises daily by a designated cook. Extra helpings were provided to the children on request. Morning snack provided on the day at 11am was pancakes, grapes and bananas. Dinner on the day of inspection was spaghetti bolognese and garlic bread. A further snack was available before home time.

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:

- Safe storage was available for the cleaning agents and equipment used in the service.
- The person in charge ensured that complete and accurate daily records of attendance were kept for all children, adults, and visitors to the service.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- The external outdoor play areas were secured.

Infection Control:

- Playrooms, the sleep room, communal areas, and sanitary areas were adequately ventilated by mechanical ventilation and by natural forms of opening doors and windows.
- There was liquid soap at the wash hand basins to facilitate hygienic hand washing for children and adults.
- Paper towels were provided in the dispensers in all the sanitary areas used by the children and adults to facilitate hygienic hand drying.

Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.

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-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

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

Compliance Information

(1) Records demonstrated that the date and time of attendance and departure in respect of each pre-school child is recorded on a daily basis.

(3)(a) All persons are approved by an employee prior to entry to the pre-school.

(b) Visitors are announced and approved by an authorised staff member on arrival, the visitors' details are entered into the visitors' book.

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) The service provided evidence that a person had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

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 are available to show that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises. The fighting equipment was last serviced on the 28/05/2024. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 31/05/2024.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous positions on the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for 75 children at any one time. The expiry date on the insurance certificate was from 28/03/2024 to the 27/03/2025.