

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D:	TU2015CN031							
Name of Service	Kids Corner							
Address of Service:	22 Thorndale Close, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan, A82 E6X7							
Email Address:	catherine.mccabe111@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Provider:	Catherine McCabe							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time		Sessional		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary			
Proposed change:	Change in number of children from 22 to 23 Change in service type from Part Time, Sessional to Sessional only Change in hours of operation from 08:45-13:45 and 12:15-15:15 to 08:45-11:45 and 12:15-15:15							
Proposed Number of Children:	23							
Recommended Change Following Inspection:	Change in number of children from 22 to 23 Change in service type from part-time, sessional to sessional only Change in hours of operation from 08:45-13:45 and 12:15-15:15 to 08:45-11:45 and 12:15-15:15							
Registered change:	Change in service type from part-time sessional to sessional Change in hours from 08:45-13:45 and 12:15-15:15 to 08:45-11:45 and 12:15-15:15 Change in number of children from 22 to 23 children							
Date of Inspection:	0	8	0	8	2	0	2	5
Inspection undertaken by:	S Mc Kenna							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Drumalee, Co Cavan. H12 YY84.							

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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 Sessional Service for 23 Children
Date of Registration	15th August 2025

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	Kids Corner Pre-school is a privately operated early years' service, in operation since 2007. The service proposes to provide a sessional only service to a maximum of 23 children aged from 2 to 6 years, operating from 08:45am to 11:45am and 12.15pm to 15.15pm Monday to Friday 38 weeks per year.
Premises	The pre-school operates from a two-storey semi-detached house in a housing estate in Kingscourt. The Downstairs Preschool operates from two interconnecting rooms on the ground floor and the Upstairs Preschool operates from two interconnecting rooms on the first floor. An office and storeroom are also available. An outdoor play area is located to the rear and side of the premises. Car parking for arrival and collection is available to the front of the premises.
Staffing	Five staff are employed in the service to include the registered provider.
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:

The requirement has been met.

The service has a designated person in charge who is the registered provider and a named person to deputise in their absence.

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 has been met.

It is proposed that a minimum of five adults will work in the service. Two of whom will work in each preschool room, and one staff will support the rooms where required.

The registered provider is aware of the requirements of this regulation in relation to adult: child ratios.

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.

(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

Requirement met:

The requirements of this regulation have been met.

(1) (a) Adequate and suitable facilities is provided for the children to play indoors during the day. A range of play materials, equipment and toys, along with resourced designated interest areas are available in each of the two preschool rooms.

(b) There are cosy areas in each of the preschool rooms to include a variety of soft child sized sofas, a nursing chair and cushions.

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(4) There is an outdoor play area provided, which is located to the side and rear of the premises and is surrounded by fencing, walls and secure gates.

A hard ground surface and a section with artificial grass matting is provided. A wooden playhouse with a slide, a tunnel, tyres, benches, a mud kitchen, a small fairy garden area and a shed with additional toys is available. A section just outside the downstairs preschool room was covered which allows for play opportunities in inclement weather conditions.

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 requirement has been met.

The registered provider advised that the parents/carers of the preschool children will send in adequate, suitable and nutritious snacks for their children on a daily basis. A refrigerator is available in each of the two preschool rooms for the storage of perishable food items. The children will have access to their drinks during their day.

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 front entrance door into the service is secured by lock and key, where parents/carers ring the bell, and the door is then opened by staff. This prevents children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised access.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed throughout the inspection.
- Windows on the first floor have been risk assessed and are fitted with wooden restrictors.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The staircase & handrails are maintained in good condition. • There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of suitable nappy bins and foot pedal operated bins throughout the service. • Individual single use paper towels are provided for handwashing purposes. • Cleaning schedules are available for the service. Cleaning materials were observed to be stored on high shelves. • Risk assessment records are in place. • The designated fire assembly point, confirmed by the registered provider is located at the large gate to the rear of the premises within the outdoor area.
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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 registered provider has ensured that there are four adults with up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificates.

(2) (a) (b) Adequately stocked first aid boxes are provided in each of the preschool rooms and available to the children at all times.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—

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- (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:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) (a) The registered provider demonstrated that a template to record fire drills was available, and records available for review demonstrated that the fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis.</p> <p>(b) There was a record available relating to the number and type of firefighting equipment. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment was carried out on 10 January 2025, and the fire detection and alarm system were carried out on 06 June 2025.</p> <p>(4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed throughout the service.</p>
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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>Insurance is in place for up to 23 preschool children in attendance on a sessional basis and expires on the 27 March 2026.</p>
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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—

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- (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 partially met.

- (a) The registered provider confirmed that she had no knowledge of any structural defects.
- (b) The service was adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry.
- (c) The service was adequately lit and heated. The lighting is provided by a mixture of natural light leading from large windows, which is supplemented with fluorescent ceiling lights and were fitted with protective covers. The service is heated by gas. The preschool rooms were maintained at the required room temperature of 18-22°C.
The preschool rooms are ventilated by openable windows.
Sanitary areas are ventilated by mechanical ventilation.
- (d) Cleaning schedules are available, and the premises is maintained in a clean condition.
- (e) The children's sanitary facilities in the service were equipped with total of 3 toilets and 2 wash hand basins. A nappy changing unit was also available.
Thermostatically controlled hot water to a maximum of 39.3°C was provided, and cold running water was available in all of the hand washing sinks.
There is 1 toilet and wash hand basin available for the adults, located off the Upstairs Preschool room.

Requirement not met:

- (e) Sanitary accommodation to serve the children in the Downstairs area is inadequate for the number of children proposed. The registered provider confirmed that 12 children will attend the Downstairs Preschool room. There are two toilets available, and one wash hand basin and the requirements are one toilet and one wash hand basin per 11 children.
The following is required
 - A second sink,
 - A full partition or door to be provided to separate the 2 toilets located within one cubicle so as to ensure that the children have appropriate privacy when using the toilet.

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Response from Provider:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New sink ordered and has been delivered. Will be installed on 14th August. Ordered and delivered and will be installed on 14th August.
Summary Comment:	The registered provider has submitted photographic evidence of the second sink installed within the downstairs toilet cubicle. A photograph of a wall mounted partition has been fitted between both toilets located within the one cubicle, the use of the partition in providing privacy for children will be reviewed upon the next inspection. The registration requirement has been met.

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 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.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of children within the two preschool rooms.</p> <p>(2) The following clear floor space is available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Upstairs Preschool room is 38m². The space available can cater for the proposed 11 children aged 2 years 6 months to 6 years on a sessional basis. The Downstairs Preschool room is 48m². The space available can cater for the proposed 12 children aged 2 years 6 months to 6 years on a sessional basis.
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