

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN034
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Name of Service:	Krafty Kids Community Childcare
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Address of Service:	Cullyleenan, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan
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Eircode:	H14 W084
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ciaran McManus
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	22/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	26	PM	23
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No.18 The Grange Plantation Walk Monaghan
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Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader and M. Flood
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

Krafty Kidz Community Childcare has been operating as a community run childcare service since 1998. They provide full day care, part-time and sessional education and care to pre-school children aged from 0 - 6 years of age. The service is open from 07:45 to 17:45 each weekday and caters for a maximum of 39 children. The service operates from a purpose-built building in the town of Ballyconnell Co. Cavan. The service currently has 3 care rooms in operation the Baby, Wobbler and Toddler Rooms. There are sanitary accommodations, nappy changing facilities, a kitchen, an office and a staff room.

Staffing

There are 17 staff employed in the service - 13 including the person in charge who work directly with the preschool children, 1 employed in administration, a cleaner and a cook. One staff member was also employed through a community employment scheme in a supernumerary capacity.

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

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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 person in charge, staff and children who were 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,
- (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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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) & (b) The service had a designated person in charge and a designated named deputy person to deputise as required. The person in charge was on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

There were 17 staff files presented for inspection.

(2)(a) & (b)

- There were 2 written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for 17 members of staff.

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(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda vetting disclosure was available for all 17 staff members and the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Following a review of the staff files presented on the day of inspection, international police vetting was available for the 9 staff who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of greater than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that the 13 members of staff, who worked directly with the pre-school children had a minimum Level 5 childcare qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

(d) Evidence of international police vetting for a second country was not available for one staff member in the service who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of greater than 6 months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(d) International vetting for the staff member has been received and e-mailed to the inspector on the 30th January 2026.

All C.V.'s have been reviewed to ensure adequate vetting is in place for all staff members. All managers have been advised that going forward they need to check gaps in staff's C.V.'s and periods of time they reside outside of the country. At interview stage all applicants will be asked if they have lived outside of the country for any period of time. The interview process has been updated and articulated to all managers.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of international police vetting.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the registered provider's response and supporting documentation. The response is accepted and the non-compliance addressed.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Non-Compliance Information

The Infection Control policy reviewed on the day of inspection did not contain pertinent information that is required to ensure infection control practices are sufficient. The following information was not included in the policy:

- The correct cleaning process of toys and mouthed toys.
- The process of disinfection if required.
- The process for the care of soothers.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The infection control policy has been updated to include the process of cleaning toys and mouthed toys, the process of disinfection and the process of cleaning soothers.

The updated policy is referred to often, signed off on by new staff and spoke about during induction.

Management and Room leaders will observe that correct procedures are been implemented correctly in all care rooms.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of infection control policy.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the registered provider's response and supporting documentation. The response is accepted. The non-compliances are addressed.

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 there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service in the Baby, Wobbler and Toddler Rooms.

(2) When the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service there were 3 rooms in operation the Baby Room, Wobbler Room and the Toddler Room.

The following adult: child ratios were observed:

- Two staff in the Baby Room with 7 children aged 11 months to 1 year and 7 months.
- Two staff in the Wobbler Room with 8 children aged 1 year and 9 months to 2 years and 3 months.
- Three staff in the Toddler Room with 11 children aged 2 - 3 years. One additional adult was present in this room from 10:30 – 14:30 in a supernumerary capacity.

(8) On review of documentation the registered provider ensured that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

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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

There were 3 rooms in operation on the day of inspection namely the Baby, Wobbler and Toddler Rooms.

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service.

Basic needs:

- In all rooms the children were observed to move freely in the care rooms and some children had a change of environment to the outdoor play area when the weather improved in the afternoon. The children were dressed appropriately to go outside.
- All food was supplied by the service. Morning snack consisted of kiwis, apples, bananas, strawberries, toast and cheese. Dinner served at 12pm was a homemade dinner of gammon, mash, carrots, turnips, sweetcorn and gravy. Water and milk were available for drinks. The 3pm snack consisted of homemade pancakes, watermelon and banana. Dinners were saved for sleeping children and served when they got up.
- Although not observed on the day staff reported that any bottles of formula / milk come into the service made up and are stored appropriately in the fridge.
- All meals were observed to be of an age-appropriate consistency and independence with feeding was promoted in all rooms.
- In the rooms nappies were changed routinely, as required and in a timely manner. Pleasant interactions were observed between staff and the children. The toilet trained children were encouraged to be independent with toileting and discreet supervision was also provided by staff as required.
- Attention was given to personal care, faces and hands were cleaned and bibs were placed on the younger children for mealtimes.
- Child led sleep needs were observed in operation in the Baby Room. The Wobbler Room was converted into a sleep room directly after dinner and all children went to sleep at this designated sleep time. The

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children from the Toddler Room went down to sleep after dinner in a separate sleep room off the Toddler Room at the allocated sleep time.

- In the Baby Room one child who woke up from their sleep and was unwell was given medication and comforted by the staff, until collected by the parent.

Supporting Relationships

- Soft tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the staff and children in all the rooms, for example *“well done”, “oh great job”, “are you stuck do you need help?”, “good job ... Are you sweeping up”* and *“what is this book about, would you like to join us ... good girl come closer”*.
- In all rooms the staff were down at the children’s level for activities and assisted the children in their chosen play activities.
- Communication with parents was predominantly through an electronic application “the app” where a child’s daily activities in relation to food intake, activities, sleep and toileting were recorded. Staff reported that communication was also verbally at drop off and collection and via email.
- Regular service and room meetings to discuss planning and curriculum take place. They also use a staff application to communicate policies and to plan staff training.

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,

Compliance Information

(1)(b) In the Baby Room there were soft comfortable areas in the care room which consisted of a matted area with raised sides and plastic covered cushions, another matted area with some plastic covered foam shapes for climbing on and a third area of soft matting and cushions. The Wobbler Room had a soft area consisting of plastic covered matting with raised sides at the book area. The Toddler Room had an area with soft mats and cushions. There was a cot room off the Baby Room with 6 standard cots for those children under 2 years of age to sleep in. In addition, there were 7 coracle beds and some floor mats for the children from the Wobbler Room to access for sleep. In the sleep room off the Toddler Room there were 11 floor beds with appropriate bedlinen.

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

Infection Control:

- Throughout the service gentle handwashing reminders were given to the children in the various rooms after toileting, nappy changing, outdoor play and before meals.
- Nappy changing procedures were carried out appropriately with gloves and aprons worn by staff and appropriately removed after use.
- There was a constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels.
- In the Wobbler Room a staff member was observed to wear gloves when cleaning noses and to wash their hands afterwards.
- Tabletops were cleaned after activities and before mealtimes.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The toilet off the Baby and Wobbler Rooms was used to store the coracle beds and floor mats used for the children from the Wobbler Room to sleep on. Toilets areas are not an appropriate location for storage and are an infection control risk.
2. The coracle beds were stored with the bed linen in place and these were stored on top of each other. This is a cross-infection risk.
3. It was stated by staff that all toys and equipment were being cleaned with a sterilising agent and hot water and not with hot soapy water which is the best practice guidance. This is an infection control risk.
4. The nappy bins in use in the service were lidded and pedal operated. However staff members were observed using their hands to open the inner flap of the nappy bin to dispose of soiled nappies. This practice is incorrect as it is a source of cross contamination of the staff members hands.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The coracle beds have now been relocated to a storeroom located off the baby room. All staff members have been spoken to and they know where they will be stored from now on. All staff will become familiar

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with the location of all coracle beds, the storeroom will be labelled as bed storage. All staff informed that the beds can no longer be stored in the toilet area.

2. All linen is now removed from the beds after each use. They are stored in individual labelled plastic bags in a box in the storeroom for use the next day. All staff have been spoken to about the new practice and ensured they understand. All staff are aware of the cross-contamination risk when not removing sheets and therefore will remove after each use and before storing away. We will ensure staff are following through with new practice and monitor that the new practice is been maintained.
3. The policy has been updated. Ensure that all toys are cleaned with hot soapy water. A sterilising agent is used when required policy has been updated and communicated to all staff. The updated policy has been e-mailed to staff and has been uploaded to the staff electronic application.
4. Staff have been informed and re-trained on the use of the nappy bins, which allows the nappy bins to be hands free. The bins will be monitored and emptied more frequently to allow the internal flap to open without the use of hands touching the interior of the bin. Ensure all bins are emptied more frequently and staff understand the importance of not touching the bins with their hands as it becomes an infection control issue.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence, copy of infection control policy.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the registered provider's response and supporting documentation. The responses are accepted and the non-compliances identified in Regulation 23 have been addressed.

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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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that there was a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children, on the premises at all times. Eleven FAR certificates were reviewed.
- (2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available to the preschool children in the service.