

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 Mc Manus
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	05/04/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	35	PM	32
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No.18 The Grange Plantation Walk, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader and M. Flood
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

Krafty Kids Community Childcare have 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 07:45am to 17:45pm each weekday and caters for a maximum of 64 children. The service operates from rooms a 2-storey building and adjoining prefabricated building in the town of Ballyconnell Co. Cavan. The service currently has 4 care rooms in operation namely: Baby Room, Wobbler Room, Toddler Room and Full Day Care Preschool Room. There is 1 sleep room off the Baby and Wobbler Rooms and 1 off the Toddler Room. There are nappy changing and sanitary accommodations, a kitchen, staff room and an office. The service has 2 outdoor areas to the side and front of the service.

Staffing

There are 20 adults employed in the service who work directly with the children, a service manager and 1 adult employed as 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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 20, 22 and 26 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under Regulation 23 and 29.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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) & (b) The service had a designated person in charge and named deputy person to deputise as required. Both were on the premises when the inspectors arrived and were present throughout the inspection.

Following a discussion with the person in charge and there were 9 new staff members employed in the service from the last inspection. The 9 staff files were reviewed.

(2)(a) & (b) There were 2 written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for all of the new members of staff in the service.

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for each of the 9 new staff members.

(d) Following a review of the staff files presented for inspection documentary evidence of international police vetting was available for all 5 adults who had lived outside the Irish jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the childcare qualification for 6 of the new adults in the service met the minimum qualification required to enable them to work directly with the preschool children. The remaining 3 adults were employed under community employment schemes and working in a supernumerary capacity and therefore did not require a childcare qualification.

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) There were an adequate number of adults present with the preschool children attending the service when the inspectors arrived at the service and for the duration of the inspection.

(2) The following adult: child ratios were observed in the care rooms when the inspectors arrived at the premises:

Full Day Care Preschool Room:

There were 12 preschool children (aged 3 - 5 years) attending this room with 3 childcare staff. A fourth adult who was rostered to work came to work in the room at 12:30pm.

The child adult ratios were correct.

Baby Room:

There were 4 preschool children (aged 11 months – 1 year and 7 months) attending this room with 2 childcare staff. The child adult ratios were correct.

Wobbler Room:

There were 6 preschool children (aged 1 year and 10 months – 2 years and 1 month) with 2 childcare staff. An additional adult employed on a community employment scheme was also working in the room in a supernumerary capacity. At 12:30 pm a fourth adult who was rostered to work came to work in the room.

The child adult ratios were correct.

Toddler Room:

There were 13 preschool children (aged 2-3 years) being cared for by 4 adults. The adult: child ratios were correct.

(8)(a) Following a review of the available documentation e.g. staff rotas and children’s attendance records this information demonstrated that the registered provider ensured that there were at least 2 adults 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, and

Compliance Information

There were 4 rooms in operation on the day of the inspection: namely the Baby, Wobbler, Toddler and Full Day Care Rooms.

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

BASIC NEEDS:

- The children’s drinks cups and bottles were stored in the care rooms, and they were accessible as required. Staff were observed to sit with the older children at mealtimes and this time was used to encourage conversations between the children. Assistance was given to the older children who required help with opening lunches and certain foods and to the younger children who required feeding. Bibs were put on the younger children before meals and hands and faces cleaned appropriately after the meals.
- Nappies were changed regularly and in a timely manner with pleasant interactions observed between children and staff.

- The toilet trained children were encouraged to be independent with toileting and discreet supervision was also provided by staff as required. Gentle handwashing reminders were also given to the children after toileting.
- In the Baby, Wobbler and Toddler Rooms, individual child-led sleep needs were facilitated in the service as the staff followed the children's routines. For example, in the Toddler Room one child who was reportedly tired and displaying signs of tiredness, was facilitated to sleep when the inspectors arrived on the premises.
- The children were observed to move freely in the care rooms and had a change of environment into the outdoor areas on a number of occasions. All children were dressed appropriately to go outside.

Supporting Relationships

- The adults throughout the service were observed to interact with the children in a warm and supportive manner. Soft tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the children in all the rooms and transitions between activities were organised and swift.
- The language used by the staff in the service was positive and encouraging e.g. *"...that picture is very colourful. Your mammy and daddy are going to love that."*
- Staff sat with the children during activities and children were observed to actively seek out staff members. Equally children who did not wish to partake in a particular activity were also supported. For example, one child who did not wish to engage in outside play remained inside with the childcare worker and engaged in their preferred musical activity.
- A key worker system was in operation in the service. This was displayed in the care rooms with photographic evidence of each child and their key worker.
- The staff reported that most communication with parents was via the electronic application in use in the service and verbally at collection and drop off.

Physical and Material Environment

- Child sized furniture and equipment was in use throughout the service.
- A variety of age-appropriate materials and equipment were available in the care rooms that support many areas of development such as fine and gross motor skills, role play, speech and language and sensory development.

- Toys and equipment were positioned on open low-level shelving in all rooms which promoted independence and facilitated choice for the older children and in the Baby and Wobbler Room the staff assisted the children in accessing toys. Some of the equipment was also wall mounted at a low level, so the children had free access e.g. a wall mounted activity centre.

Programme Of Activities

- Staff were recording observations and emerging interests of the children.
- Learning journals had been commenced on the children and artwork was visible such as “feather art, foot paintings and collage art.
- Many of the activities observed during the inspection were child led and the children were facilitated to make their own choices regarding some of the stories that were read or songs that were sung.

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,

Compliance Information

(1)(b) There were soft comfortable areas in the rooms which consisted of mats, small sofa and cushions which a child could sit and relax on or take a break from an activity. There was an adult chair in the Baby /Wobbler Rooms where an adult could sit and nurse and baby or small child.

There was a sleep room off the Baby/Wobbler Rooms where there were 6 standard cots available for the children aged under 2 years of age to sleep on. Additionally, there were 2 daybeds for the children aged over 2 years of age to sleep on.

There was also a sleep room off the Toddler Room that contained 2 standard cots and 5-day beds.

(3)(a) There were 2 outdoor play areas on the premises:

- **Area 1** There was an enclosed outdoor area to the front of the building which the children were observed to access. This area had a safety surface and also an area that was partially covered and therefore could be used in all types of weather. A variety of pieces of play equipment were available that promoted many areas of development and included a large climbing frame with slide, a wooden tepee, a mud kitchen, a tunnel and climbing frame, a variety of ride-on pieces, tyres for climbing and balance steps.
- **Area 2** was located to the side of the building and for use by the children from the Baby and Wobbler Rooms. It also had an artificial grass area and contained age-appropriate toys.

Non-Compliance Information

1. There were two bean bags in both the Baby and Wobbler Rooms cosy areas. These are a safety risk.
2. There were footholds observed in 3 of the cots in the cot room off the Baby and Wobbler Rooms.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. All bean bags were removed from the room on the day of the inspection.
Staff have been informed that this is not a safe practise and bean bags should not be in the rooms. Going forward bean bags will not be purchased for the rooms.
2. All mattresses in the Baby and Wobbler Room have been replaced.
The registered provider has met with staff and reviewed the safe sleep policy. Staff are now fully aware of the risks of footholds and if there are any issues with cots or mattresses, it is to be reported to management for review. All staff have been e-mailed a new copy of the safe sleep policy within the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the new mattresses purchased, and the invoice submitted to the Office of the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The non-compliances have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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

Healthy eating was promoted in the service as was evident by the dinner and snacks provided by the service in the various rooms. On the day of the inspection the dinner provided was observed to include gammon, mashed potatoes, carrots and gravy. The morning snack consisted of chopped fruit and pancakes and the afternoon snack was ham and cheese wraps.

Potable drinking water was available for the children to access as required in all rooms. In the Baby Room the staff reported that bottles of formula milk are brought in by the parents made-up.

Staff assisted children as necessary with their dinner in the Baby and Wobbler Rooms and independence with feeding was promoted where appropriate in the other care rooms.

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

It was observed that the registered provider has taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service including:

General Safety:

- The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.
- The outdoor area was enclosed and gates were secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised.
- The cleaning agents were stored in locked cupboards/ drawers or on high shelving and were inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Documentary evidence was available of daily risk assessments being carried out in the service.

Infection Control:

- In the Baby Room soothers were stored in individual lidded containers.
- A steam steriliser was available in the Baby Room should it be required.
- Staff and children washed their hands after nappy changing and the older children were observed to wash their hands after using the toilet. Hand washing was also observed before dinner and after outdoor play.
- There was a constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels.
- Table surfaces were cleaned after messy play, tabletop activities and prior to dinner time.
- Up to date documented cleaning records were on display in each of the care rooms.

Safe Sleep:

- Physical safe sleep observations were observed being carried out and documented appropriately in accordance with the services safe sleep policy.

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 firefighting 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) A record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service the last recorded being 28/3/2023 and 29/3/2023.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises dated the 7/22 and 10/1/23.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

A full-service fire drill was not being carried out in the service, for example the main building and Portacabin carried out their emergency fire drill evacuation on 2 separate days.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Going forward, all fire service drills will be completed on the same date and time.

A meeting was held with fire safety officers within the service and guidance was provide regarding completion of all fire drills on the same day at the same time.

Summary Comment

The registered provider is accepted as adequately addressing the non-compliance identified in Regulation 26.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required,*

Non - Compliance Information

(d) There was mould around the frame of the double doors in the sleep room off the Baby and Wobbler Room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All staff will ensure to open the blinds every evening and wipe down the frames of the double doors.
Management have met with all staff and spoke to them to ensure the wiping of the door frames is on the cleaning rota and will be done at the end of each day.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate is satisfied that the non-compliance has been addressed.