

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DR044

Name of Service: Kids United Creche and Montessori Centre

Address of Service: 28 Woodlands Road, Cabinteely, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin

Eircode: A96 F210

Name of Registered Provider: Aidan Repton

Service type: Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

Date of Inspection: 21/05/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	42	PM	23

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Brunel Building
Heuston South Quarter
Saint John's Road West
Dublin 8.
D08 X01F

Inspection undertaken by: R.Duff
H. Sutherland

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

Kids United Crèche and Montessori is a privately owned childcare facility located in Cabinteely, South County Dublin. The service is registered to accommodate 52 children aged 1 to 6 years. The service is open from 7.30am to 6.30pm. An option of sessional, part time and full day care is available. Sessions are provided from 9.00am to 12.00pm daily, over a 38-week, in conjunction with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service operates from a ground floor adapted retail premises. The service comprises of five care rooms, a designated sleep room and an outdoor area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

The service employs a total of ten staff including a person in charge, deputy person in charge, seven childcare staff, and a cook. There were ten staff present on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The following regulations were reviewed:

Regulation 9 (1)(2)(3)(4)-Management and recruitment.
Regulation 11(1)(3)(8) Staffing levels.
Regulation 15 Record of a pre-school child
Regulation 19 (1)(b) Health, welfare and development of child.
Regulation 23 Safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of child.
Regulation 28-Insurance.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15, 19 and 23. As a result, the scope of the inspection focused on the preschool room.

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, deputy 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present when the inspectors arrived to the service.
- (c) The service had a clear management structure and staff were aware of their own role and responsibilities.
- (2) The inspection included a review four staff files for adults who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 4 June 2024 and included a review of Garda vetting disclosures for all staff. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:
- (a) Six written and verified references were available from past employers.
 - (b) Two written and verified references were available from a reputable source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider and ten adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International Police vetting was available for four staff members who had resided outside of the state for six months or more as an adult.

(3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had been carried out prior to the four adults commencing employment in the service.

(4) Evidence was available to show that ten adults who worked directly with the children in the service held 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.

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) The registered provider ensured there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2) During the Inspection, there were 9 adults caring for 42 children aged 1years - 5 years old. The minimum ratios of adults to children was maintained at all times during the inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least 2 staff members on the premises throughout the inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1) The records of 10 children who were attending the service were reviewed and contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.

(f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.

(g) The name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner was available.

(h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.

(i) There was written parental consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency.

(3)(c) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) was open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

The inspectors observed appropriate care practices in place. The children moved freely in all rooms – exploring their environment, playing and engaging with each other and the staff. Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed children by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. Language used by the staff members was observed to be encouraging, supportive and informative. Individual daily reports were kept throughout the day to give to parents/guardians to provide for continuation of care. Identity and belonging were promoted in all care rooms with children’s family photos, and artwork displayed on the walls of the care rooms and corridors throughout the service and visible to children. Children spent time outdoors throughout the day and were dressed appropriate to the weather.

Children were given advance warnings to support transitions to a new activity and for mealtimes. Children in preschool brought morning snack from home and the service provides snack for younger children and a hot meal at lunch time for all children. Drinks were readily available within the care rooms. Mealtimes were social occasions with children and adults sitting together, staff provided children with help when needed. Younger children were supported to eat independently, and bibs were worn during meals to protect the children’s clothes from becoming soiled or wet. Children wearing nappies had these changed regularly. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm one to one interactions with the children.

Children in the Caterpillar room were placed to sleep according to their individual routines and when they showed signs of tiredness. Children in the butterfly room were placed to sleep as part of the room routine. The sleep

rooms were calm and conducive to sleep. Children who had soothers were offered these when they were being placed to sleep. Staff provided the children with comfort and reassurance as they were settling to sleep, talking to them gently and sitting next to them. Areas were provided within all rooms where children could rest or take a break from activities.

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:

- When the inspectors arrived at the service, access to the main door was monitored and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorized persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. In addition, the outdoor play area was securely gated restricting unauthorized persons from gaining access to this area and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- The outdoor area was observed to be suitable, safe and secure with domestic bins stored out of children's reach and all outdoor play materials maintained and in good condition free from hazards, staff were observed to supervise younger children using climbing frames.
- Anti-febrile medication and cleaning agents to include disinfectant sprays and liquids were stored on high shelves and in high cupboards.

Infection Control:

- Soothers were kept in individual containers to avoid cross-contamination.
- Appropriate infection control measures were taken during nappy changing including the use of gloves, aprons, and thorough handwashing after changes. Waste was managed appropriately using pedal-operated bins.
- Each child was provided with their own bed linen, which was laundered weekly and stored individually between use.
- Warm water, soap and paper towels were available for handwashing.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored in their original packaging out of reach of children. Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of procedures to safeguard children when administering medicine. This included getting

written consent from parents or guardians, having a second staff member present as a witness during administration, and maintaining detailed records shared with parents or guardians upon collection. Care plans were available for children who required regular or emergency medication.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep room and the main area in the caterpillar room, individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Standard cots and sleep mats were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were recorded and maintained at the required temperature ranges.

Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the caterpillar room, trailing wires from a light and a fan were observed to be hanging from a wooden unit. The wires were accessible to the children. This posed a risk of strangulation to a child if they accessed it.
2. The door into the kitchen was observed to be open while the kitchen was unattended, a child was observed to walk past the kitchen door unsupervised to access the children's bathroom. The kitchen door is directly facing the children's bathroom. Throughout the inspection, children walked to the bathroom independently. This posed a potential risk of harm to a child accessing the kitchen area unsupervised.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider stated:

1. The trailing wires have been securely pinned to the wall out of reach of children. Staff have been retrained in carrying out a risk assessment in the room.
2. Staff have been reminded of the importance of closing the door when the kitchen is unattended. A sign has also been placed on the door as a reminder. Staff will accompany children when they are in the hallway going to the toilet or garden.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspectors.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the provider will address the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on the next inspection.

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 the sessional service was insured. The insurance certificate provided for review showed cover for the 55 children and an expiry date of 27 March 2026.