

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS041				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kilnamanagh Kids				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	36 Tamarisk Lawns, Kilnamanagh, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin				
<b>Eircode:</b>	D24 RY24				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Deirdre Lawlor				
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	15/07/2025				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>29</td> <td>PM</td> <td>27</td> </tr> </table>	AM	29	PM	27
AM	29	PM	27		
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Level 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8.				
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	R Phillips E Mulhern				
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Kilnamanagh Kids is a privately operated early years' service. The service is registered to provide full day-care, part-time and sessional care for children from 2 to 6 years of age and is registered to operate from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday. The service is located in an adapted domestic dwelling in Kilnamanagh, Dublin 24. There are 5 care rooms in the service. On the day of inspection room 1 catered for children from 3-4 years. Room 2 catered for children from 3-4 years. Room 3 catered for children aged 2 years. All three of these rooms are located on the ground floor of the premises. Room 4 catered for children aged 3-4 years. Room 5 catered for 4-5-year-olds and along with room 4 is on the first floor. There is also a dedicated cot room with three cots on the ground floor. There are two outdoor play areas to the front and rear of the property.

### Staffing

The service employs twenty-two adults, including the service manager who works directly in the service, and three cooks, one cleaning staff member and seventeen childcare practitioners. The registered provider doesn't work directly in the service and was not present on the day of inspection.

### 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

9 (1) (2) (4) Management and recruitment,  
11 (1) (2) (4) Staffing levels,  
19 (1)(a) Health, welfare and development of child,  
23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,  
25 (1) (2) First Aid, and  
26 (1)(a)(b) (2) (c) (4) Fire safety measures

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 (1)(a). As a result, the scope of the inspection included rooms 1,2,3 and 4.

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
- (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.

(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) There was a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge was present when the inspectors arrived unannounced for the inspection. The named person in charge remained on the premises throughout the inspection.

(c) There was a clear management structure in place. The manager and staff demonstrated an awareness of their roles and lines of authority within the service.

(2) Documentation was reviewed in full for six adults who commenced employment in the service since the last inspection on 03 July 2023 and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) References had been sourced from eleven past employers and one reputable source and had a record of verification as required.

(c) Garda Vetting had been sourced. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all other adults employed.

(d) International Police Vetting was available for each employee who had lived outside of the Irish jurisdiction for a period of six months or longer as an adult, as required.

(4) A record was available evidencing that the adults working directly with the children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or 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.*

*(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-*

*(a) a sessional pre-school service, and*

*(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).*

#### Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children.

(2) (4) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement for the age of children and type of service was maintained at all times. When the highest number of children were present, there were six adults working directly with twenty-nine children, with the service manager also working directly with the children as required.

### 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

##### Basic needs:

The children and staff sat together during meals, making it a sociable relaxed occasion.

There were beakers and the children's own water bottles visible and accessible to the children in the care rooms.

The adults working with the children were responsive to the children's individual needs, with the adult in one care room facilitating the children's independent use of the toilet, until one child requested help and was assisted by the adult with kindness and respect.

Nappy changing was also handled in a positive and sensitive manner, carried out as and when required.

##### Supporting Relationships around children:

Staff supported inclusion of all the children.

The 'one class many cultures' poster in room 3, was surrounded by pictures of representations of different cultures.

Other rooms had family walls at children's eye level with photos of their families at the rest areas, to make a connection between the service and home and promote a sense of belonging.

##### Physical and material environment:

A variety of multi-sensory experiences were provided including water tables outside and trays inside with sand and water, jugs with pasta shapes.

There was adequate play materials and toys and arts and crafts in each room sampled. There were home corners, rest areas construction toys and toy instruments.

The children wore appropriate rain gear and played outside, where there were slides and ride on toys to use to promote gross motor development.

##### Programme of Activities:

In room 4 the daytime routine was on the wall at the children's eye level in photos of the children's activities.

Staff joined the children in an imaginary game outside.

Children’s language development was supported through one to one and group discussions, songs and storytelling which were observed throughout the inspection.

The children were engaged in relaxation and meditation.

### 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

The following are examples of the measures undertaken by the manager and staff to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children attending the service:

##### General Safety:

The entrance doors and outdoor area were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the premises unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.

The toys and equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

Cleaning agents were appropriately stored in locked cupboards and on high level shelving in rooms the children didn’t have access to.

Children did not have access to the kitchen or storage rooms.

##### Infection Control:

The inspectors observed staff wiping down tables before and after eating.

The children washed their hands on return from playing outside, after messy play, after using the toilet and before eating, to prevent cross contamination.

There was thermostatically controlled warm water which didn’t exceed the safe maximum temperature of 43°C.

The inspectors observed staff carrying out nappy changing, they used personal protective equipment as provided.

The staff were observed wiping the mat and nappy changing area before and following the procedure and washed their own and the children’s hands at the appropriate times, to prevent cross contamination

The cots and floor beds appeared clean, with individually stored clean linen, which staff stated was washed weekly or more frequently as required.

A soother was stored in an individual container, labelled until required.

Waste was appropriately managed throughout the service with the use of pedal operated lidded bins.

### Administration of Medication:

Medicines were stored out of reach of children in their original packaging as required.

Staff demonstrated an understanding of the appropriate measures to be taken to safeguard children if medicine administration was required. A sample of medication administration records were reviewed. The forms were completed with all the pertinent information required.

Care plans for four children who may require medication were reviewed, they were comprehensive and included provisions for emergency procedures. In conversation with the service manager, it was ascertained that all staff were trained in administration of emergency medicine.

No child was observed having medicine on the day of inspection.

### Safe Sleep:

Staff remained in the room with the children on the low-level beds. Staff were observed to carry out sleep checks at ten-minute intervals and explained the procedure to the inspector and documented same. Observations included the children's breathing pattern, sleep position, colour, room temperature as required.

### Fire Safety:

Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed throughout the service.

Evacuation procedures signposted at front entrance, and at rear exit onto outdoor area. Staff outlined the procedures carried out during a fire drill and identified the assembly points.

## 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) Two people with in-date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificates were present throughout the inspection. The roster and discussion with the registered provider highlighted that there is always someone with FAR training available to the children in the service. Four members of staff have in date FAR training certificates.

(2)(a) (b) There were three first aid boxes safely stored in conspicuous locations throughout the service.

These were fully stocked.

## 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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 written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 8 July 2025.
- (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on 17 January 2025. There was a record to show maintenance of the fire alarm and detection system had taken place on 28 November 2024.
- (2)(c) The records were made available for inspection.
- (4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations throughout the service.