

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS087
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Name of Service:	Kidsbrook Creche
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Address of Service:	94 Colthurst crescent, Lucan, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K78 YH28
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Name of Registered Provider:	Lisa Richardson
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date(s) of Inspection:	13/09/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	15
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	Fiona Carty
Title:	Early Years Inspector

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

Kidsbrook Crèche is a privately operated full-day-care service for children aged between 0 and 6 years. It opens Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6:00pm. The service is registered to accommodate 105 children. The service operates from a purpose built extension to the registered providers domestic dwelling and comprises of two care rooms, a separate sleep room, sanitary accommodation and a small kitchen. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There are six staff currently employed to work directly with the children including the registered provider. On the day of inspection there were four staff present.

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, 11, 16, 19, 23, 25 and 26. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16, record in relation to pre-school service.

As a result, the scope of the inspection focussed on a sample of medication administration records and accident and incident reports.

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the children, registered provider and staff who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

This regulation was assessed in relation to all staff who were employed in the service.

(2)(a)(b)

Of the twelve references required eight written and validated references were available from a past employer. A further four written and validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults.

(d) International Police vetting was available for two staff members who had lived outside of the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(3) The procedures outlined above were carried out prior to all staff members commencing employment in the service.

(4) Records were available detailing the required qualifications or equivalent for all new staff members.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. On the day of inspection there were four adults working directly with fifteen pre-school children.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times during the inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) A written record was available in each of the care rooms detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.
- (1)
- (i) A written record was available in each of the care rooms detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.
- (j) A staff roster was available which adequately reflected the staff compliment and break times for the day of inspection.
- (j) Written records of the administration of medication were available. A sample reviewed on the day of inspection documented all necessary details including details of medication and signatures of parents and staff members.
- (k) Written records of accidents and incidents which occurred in the service were available on the day of inspection. A sample reviewed documented necessary details including the child's name, details of the accident or incident and signatures of parents and staff.

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

Compliance Information

Staff reported that the service provided breakfast, a hot meal and an afternoon snack to the children. Morning snacks are provided daily by the parents of the children in attendance in the Big Room. The hot meal was provided by the service and prepared on site. Drinking water was always available in the care rooms and were available to the children to access when they wanted. All children were supported to eat independently during meals, and staff assisted children where required.

Children were happily engaged enjoying the daily routine in the pre-school rooms cared for by staff who were familiar with each child and their personalities. Activities enjoyed by children included singing songs, story time, arts and crafts and free play. Younger children rested and slept on an individual need's basis.

During free play children were observed exploring the areas of interest in the pre-school rooms that included a home area and construction area. The care rooms had a family photo display and there were educational posters on the walls.

Children enjoyed small and large group play supported by staff. Staff encouraged and supported children in their chosen activities. Calm tones of voice were used and assistance was provided whenever was needed. Staff used distraction methods and offered alternatives to encourage sharing and turn taking. Children were given opportunities to promote self-esteem and self-confidence. Strategies were used which included helpers being chosen each day to carry out responsible tasks such as handing out placemats and helping during snack time.

All care rooms had low level furniture and shelving. All toys and activities were accessible to children in all care rooms at their level and all children were encouraged and supported to choose whatever activities they wished.

Siblings were given the opportunity to eat together at dinner time as all children ate together in the Big Room.

There was a large outdoor area available to the rear of the property with a large climbing frame, treehouse and swing structure, ride on toys and slides available to the children.

Verbal handovers took place on arrival and at collection times.

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 inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The entrance door into the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the indoor play environments were safe and free from hazards. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. The children in the Big Room were encouraged to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and before meals. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff were observed to carry out consistent hand washing as appropriate.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector. Staff members were aware of the procedures in place and a sample of medication records reviewed on the day of inspection were appropriate.

Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance and adequately outlined safe sleep procedures in place in the service during discussions with the inspector. Appropriate sleep facilities were provided for children depending on their age and stage of development. These included cots and stackable beds.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and records demonstrated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The children in the Baby room did not wash their hands prior to dinner
2. The children in the Baby room were given rice cakes to eat in their hands. These were not put on plates and a number of children were observed to eat rice cakes that had fallen on the floor which posed a risk of cross contamination.

Safe Sleep:

3. Regular sleep checks did not take place as one child slept from 10.10am to 10.37am. The inspector observed the staff member retrospectively completed the sleep check form. Regular sleep checks are required on sleeping children to ensure safe sleep requirements are met.

Fire Safety:

4. Two children had not been marked in the attendance book in the Big Room at 9.52am. This would prevent the safe evacuation of all children in the event of a fire.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. and 2. Staff were retrained on KB POL 030 INFECTION CONTROL and instructed to be more observant during mealtimes.

Safe Sleep:

3. Staff were retrained on Safe Sleep Policy and instructed that they must enter the cot room when performing check.

Fire Safety:

4. The roll book will now be kept at the door and children will be signed in before entering their main room. KB POL 008 Fire Safety Policy has been amended to reflect this.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Updated policies and updated training records were submitted to the inspector.

Safe Sleep:

No supporting documents were submitted.

Fire Safety:

Updated policy was submitted to the inspector.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documents were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 23.

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) A person trained in first aid was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a)(b) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location within the service. A first aid box was always available to the adults and children in the service.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last drill had been recorded as undertaken on during September 2023.
 - (b) Records were available detailing the maintenance of the fire detection system in the service. The last date of maintenance recorded was 26th July 2023. The fire fighting equipment was last serviced in December 2022.