

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:	09/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	13
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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 19 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. The registered provider was working directly with the children during the 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, information and records, 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, 15, 16, 19 and 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 and 16.

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 registered provider, staff and children 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-

(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,

Compliance Information

There were no new staff members since the last inspection dated 13th September 2023.

(2)

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all adults.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service. On the day of inspection, there were eighteen children present in the service being supervised by four adults.

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.*

Compliance Information

A sample of eight records were reviewed by the inspector.

The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to (a) to (i) of the above Regulation for all the records reviewed.

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:

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

Compliance Information

(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-

(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 service had a weekly meal plan which detailed a range of nutritious meals and snacks served to children at regular intervals throughout the day. These were prepared on site and provided by the service. Children in each of the rooms observed were seated in an age appropriate manner at low level tables and chairs or in high chairs to enjoy their meal. Children were encouraged and supported to feed themselves and staff were observed offering help to younger children if required. Water was available at all times. Extra food was available for those who asked for more.

Older toilet trained children were observed accessing the sanitary accommodation independently and staff provided support when necessary. Nappy changing for younger children in the service occurred on a scheduled basis and more frequently if required. The procedure was carried out in a positive manner with staff engaging children in social conversation throughout the process.

There was evidence of staff members building secure relationships with children in their care. Staff members demonstrated a familiarity with individual children and were heard discussing likes and dislikes of children in the room. Staff also utilised moments of one-to-one care and play as an opportunity to engage children in conversation about their home and family life. Each of the rooms contained photos of each child's family members. Staff discussed each child's day at drop off and collection times.

Children were supported to interact positively with one another, and minor behaviour issues were addressed before escalating. Staff were observed getting down to children's level, speaking in soft tones and encouraging children to interact positively with one another.

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:

The premises was appropriately secured, and adults could not enter without permission. The main entrance door to the building remained locked and was only openable from the inside. The outdoor play area was secured by perimeter walls. The main cleaning products and equipment were securely stored in a locked cupboard. Cleaning products in regular use during the day were safely maintained out of children's reach. The play equipment and play materials both indoors and outdoors in use on the day of inspection were noted to be in good working order and free from hazards.

Infection Control:

The pre-school rooms and adjoining sanitary facilities were in a clean condition. The wash hand basins were equipped with liquid soap and paper towels to support effective handwashing.

The children attending the baby room hands were washed prior to mealtimes and after nappy changing. Children in the big room were observed washing their hands after using the toilet.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was stored appropriately in the original packaging out of reach of children. Parent/guardian consent had been obtained for medications which had been given to children attending the service. A sample of administration of medication forms were reviewed and documented all the required information as per the service policy.

Safe Sleep:

The service had a designated sleep room to facilitate the sleep needs of young children. Direct sleep checks were carried out at ten-minute intervals as evidenced by the records maintained. Staff demonstrated knowledge on safe sleep practices for children and appropriate sleep facilities to the children's age and stage of development were provided for the children in attendance.

Fire Safety:

Regular fire drills took place and all emergency exits were kept clear.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The high chairs in use in the service did not have five point harnesses in place to ensure children were safe and secure whilst in the high chair. Children aged one year were observed in highchairs which were fitted with a three point harness with broken straps.

Infection Control:

2. Children in the big room did not wash their hands prior to dinner being served.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Existing non-conforming Highchairs removed from service. New Highchairs purchased with five-point harnesses.

Infection Control:

2. All staff have been informed/retrained that if children leave the table for any reason their hands must be washed upon return.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photograph of new highchairs purchased.

Infection Control:

2. No supporting documents submitted.

Summary Comment

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