

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015DS158

**Name of Service:** Cool Kidz Creche

**Address of Service:** 51 Coolamber Park, Knocklyon Road, Templeogue, Dublin 16

**Eircode:** D16 YV20

**Name of Registered Provider:** Patricia Goodwin

**Service type:** Sessional

**Date of Inspection:** 26/03/2026

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM	N/A
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**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Early Years Inspectorate,  
Floor 7 Brunel Building,  
Heuston South Quarter,  
St John's Road West,  
Kilmainham,  
D08 X01F

**Inspection undertaken by:** JA. McKimm

**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

### Description of service

Cool Kidz Creche is a privately operated sessional service which operates from a purpose-built room adjacent to the home of the registered provider in a residential area in South Dublin. The service operates one session of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 8:45-11:45am Monday to Friday 38 weeks of the year. The service is comprised of a care room with kitchenette, a storage area, sanitary facilities and a secure outdoor area to the rear and side of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service and employs two staff members: the person in charge and deputy person in charge.

### 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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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.

### Additional Information

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider in relation to a significant concern identified under Regulation 23, Safeguarding the Health, Welfare and Development of Child. A response which adequately mitigated the concern was received on the 27 March 2026. Further details are available under administration of medication section under Regulation 23.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes 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) The service has a named designated person in charge and a deputy person in charge. Both were present on the premises on the day of inspection
  - (b) A review of the roster showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
  - (c) Staff were clear around their roles and responsibilities and reporting structures within the service.
- (2) Discussion with the person in charge and a review of the staff attendance record showed that there are two staff employed to work in the service. The files of both adults were reviewed.
- (a) Two written and validated references were available from a past employer in relation to two staff members.
  - (b) Two written and validated references were available from a reputable source in relation to two staff members.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and for two staff members The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
  - (d) Evidence showed that neither adult required police vetting.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that the two staff members who worked 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 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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that staffing levels were adequate to respond to the individual needs of the children throughout the inspection. There were two adults caring for thirteen children on the day of inspection.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children.

### 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-*
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
  - (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
  - (c) an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) Fourteen children's registration records were reviewed as part of the inspection. The registered provider ensured a full record (1) (a-i) was maintained for each child.
- (3) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were available for review.

## 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

- (1) (a) The following activities, interactions, materials and equipment was observed to support children's learning and development.

#### Basic Needs.

- The service had a healthy eating policy in place. Snack time was observed to be a social experience as children sat with both staff and their peers. Children brought their snacks from home and were given ample time to enjoy their snack and had access to their water bottles throughout the morning.
- The transitions throughout the morning from activity time to outdoor play to snack time were smooth and the children appeared familiar with this routine. Staff were observed to give children verbal reminders in advance of moving from one activity to the next activity.
- Staff members were attentive to the individual needs of the children, for example, one child had a toileting accident during play. Staff members reacted quickly, bringing the child to sanitary area to change their

clothes while reassuring them and offering comfort. Staff members were also observed to help children during toileting and handwashing, providing discreet supervision as needed.

- All children were observed to access the outdoor play area on the day of the inspection where they were provided with the opportunity to engage in physical play. This facilitated the development of gross motor movement skills.

### Supporting Relationships

- A health promoting ethos was in evidence in the service. On the day of inspection staff actively read a story to the children about good dental hygiene, while further enriching the experience through the use of additional props and resources.
- Relationships between staff and children were positive and kind. They engaged children in conversations about home life, their interests and activities supporting the development of relationships and a sense of belonging.
- The children demonstrated a positive sense of well-being and were at ease in their surroundings. They presented as happy and content and showed great enjoyment in their learning. On the morning of inspection children made Easter chick nests with cereal and chocolate and proudly showed these to parents at collection time.
- Children's language development was supported through conversations, activity times, circle time, and storytelling activities which were observed during the inspection.

### Physical and Material Environment

- The care room provided a range of developmentally appropriate and valuable play experiences for the children and was adequately resourced and set up with a variety of materials.
- Defined areas of interest including a home corner, messy play area, a bookshelf with age-appropriate books. The materials were all observed to be easily accessible to the children at all times on low level shelving and child sized tables and chairs were available to the children for tabletop activities.
- The outdoor play had a variety of equipment and toys. There were two playhouses, a kitchen with props, ride on equipment for example ride on dolphins, sand and water trays and a small planting area. In addition, there was a shed with various outdoor materials and equipment available.

### 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:

- Entry to the service was secure to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised.
- All blind cords on windows were secured.
- The outdoor area was secured with high fencing and a locked gate.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

##### Infection Control:

- A sand pit in the outdoor area was fitted with a lid to prevent contamination when not in use.
- Windows were observed to be open to allow fresh air to circulate in the care room and sanitary areas.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water and dispensed soap and handtowels were available to support hand hygiene.
- Handwashing was completed following outdoor play before lunchtime.
- Pedal operated bins were provided in both the sanitary areas and the care room.

##### Fire Safety:

- On the day of inspection all fire emergency exit doors were clear from obstruction. This helped support the safe evacuation of children and staff in the event of an emergency.
- Attendance records were accurately maintained on the day of inspection, also supporting safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. An internal door leading to the main house was unsecured which posed a potential risk of children accessing unsuitable areas or materials.
2. A television with training flex was on the floor of the sanitary area. This posed a risk to safety.

### Infection Control:

3. A string mop and bucket was in the sanitary area and was accessible to children posing a potential infection control risk and was poor hygiene practice.

### Administration of Medication:

4. The service did not ensure the safe administration of prescribed emergency medication for two children.

Evidenced by the following:

- A comprehensive care plan outlining clearly the steps to follow in the event of a medical emergency for two children on prescribed medications was not available.
- The emergency medication for one child was not kept in the service.

This posed a significant risk of safety. An immediate action notice as issued on 26 March 2026 and a response which adequately mitigated this risk was received by the registered provider on 27 March 2026

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The person in charge will ensure that internal door is locked at all times. The children do not have access to this area in between the main classroom and the main house; it is a storage room for equipment and only the teachers access it.
2. The television has been removed from the sanitary area and is stored in the attic of the main house

#### Infection Control:

3. The mop and bucket are now stored away from the bathroom, and the children do not have access to it.

#### Administration of Medication:

4. The person in charge has drawn up a medical procedure form for children in the service who require emergency medication. In consultation with parents these forms have been completed and signed for the two children highlighted on the day of inspection. In addition, a nut allergy plan has been placed on the wall in the care room in case of emergency.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

No evidence submitted.

#### Infection Control:

No evidence submitted.

#### Administration of Medication:

Copies of care plans submitted.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed.

### 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) There was documentary evidence to show that one adult held certification in First Aid Response training and was rostered to be available at all times to the children attending the service.
- (2) (a)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available to the adults caring for the children and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the care room.

### 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-*
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,*
  - (b) an employee, and*
  - (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) The records available demonstrated that fire drills are held monthly within the service and the service conducted a fire drill on 27 February 2026.
  - (b) Records demonstrate that the firefighting equipment including smoke alarms had been serviced annually, with the last service taking place on November 2025.
- (2) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were available for review.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was not displayed in a conspicuous position in the service. This could hinder evacuation process in the event of an emergency.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

- (4) The person in charge has drawn up map of the class with instructions on how to exit the service in the event of a fire. This is on display on the wall in the care room. The map with the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire will remain on the wall in a visible area.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

No evidence submitted.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 26 have been addressed.

## 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 that the service was adequately insured to reflect the type of care provided: sessional care for 22 children. The insurance certificate had an expiry date of 27 March 2027.