

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS185
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kingswood Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	2 Tynan Hall Park, Kingswood, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D24 X771
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Linda Mair
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	30/04/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	26	PM	20
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham Dublin 8
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	R Phillips E Mulhern
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors
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### 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>	NA
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### Description of service

Kingswood childcare provides full day, part time and sessional care to children from 1 to 6 years of age. The service is registered to operate from 08:00-18:00hrs, Monday to Friday.

The service is located in a residential area in Tallaght, South Dublin. It operates from the ground floor of a purposely adapted house. Children are allocated to one of three care rooms. There is a fully enclosed outdoor space available to the children to the rear of the building.

### Staffing

There are eight staff employed in the service, including a cook. On the day of the inspection there were three childcare practitioners and one student working directly with the children, the registered provider and manager, who also worked with the children, were present throughout 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, 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 Management and Recruitment,
- 11 staffing levels,

- 15 Records of a Preschool child,
- 19(1)(a)(b) Health Welfare and Development of child,
- 24 Checking in and out and Record of attendance,
- 25 First Aid and
- 26 Fire Safety.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 records of a preschool child, and 24 checking in and out and record of attendance.

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 registered provider, 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 person in charge and named person to deputise.
  - (b) The person in charge or a person who could deputise were always on the premises during the inspection. The staff roster provided for the person in charge or a person who could deputise to be present at all times of opening.
  - (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) Following discussion with the manager it was confirmed that three adults commenced employment in the service since the date of the last inspection.

Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met the regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) Of the six references that were required, five were available from a past employer, three of whom were most recent employers, and one from a reputable source.

(c) A Garda Vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána was available for all three adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate's Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years.

(d) International Police Vetting was not required for any of the three adults.

(3) It was evidenced that the procedures described above were carried out prior to the adult's commencing employment in the service.

(4) Staff employed to work directly with the preschool children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications as required.

### 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 directly with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (2)(4) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services and services that contemporaneously provide a sessional and full- or part-time care service was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 5 adults working directly with 26 children and later 20 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.

### Compliance Information

(1) (a)-(i)

A sample of ten records were reviewed. The information required was documented as outlined below:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date when each child first attended the service.
- (c) A section was available for recording when each child ceases attending the service.

- (d) The name address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted.
- (e) The names and contact details of other adults who are authorised to collect each child.
- (f) Medical information, allergies, additional needs and other information specific to the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of the child’s medical practitioner.
- (h) Immunisation details.
- (i) Signed parental consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

### 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*

*(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

(1)(a)(b)

##### **Basic Needs:**

The service promoted healthy eating and food and snacks were provided to the children at regular intervals throughout the day. Children’s drinks were available to them, within their reach at all times. It was warm and sunny on the day of inspection. The staff demonstrated care to the children and encouraged them to take regular drinks. Suncream was applied and the children wore sunhats, when going outside. Children were encouraged to use the sanitary facilities independently, according to their ability and were supervised by sight and sound as necessary.

Individual inclusion plans were evident where staff demonstrated knowledge of individual children’s needs, and the interventions required to facilitate each child’s learning and development within the service.

##### **Supporting Relationships around Children:**

Staff were observed being kind and respectful towards the children in their care and heard offering praise and encouragement. Staff sat with the children while they ate, and the children interacted in a relaxed manner with each other and the adults present, making mealtime a sociable experience.

Staff were heard communicating children's needs, likes and dislikes to one another.

Information was shared with parents at drop off and collection times and via a phone messaging application.

'Our family' photos were displayed over the calming corner, providing a connection and sense of identity and belonging for the children between home and the service.

### **Physical and Material Environment:**

The care rooms were inviting, clean and comfortable.

The toys and equipment were in good working order and suitable for the ages and stages of development of the children.

The outdoor area had been refurbished since the last inspection. There was new artificial grass, mud kitchens, sand trays, raised beds, climbing equipment, toy cars, wheelbarrows and a slide.

### **Programme of Activities:**

Interest areas were easily recognised within the care rooms. The staff in ECCE 2 described the project involved in developing the airport themed area. Each child had made a passport and tickets.

The children enjoyed a planned outing to the park.

The children had hung their own artwork to display it in ECCE 3. Children's choice of activity and use of play materials they wanted to engage with were supported by the staff.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

*(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) no person other than-*

*(i) pre-school child attending the service,*

*(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*

*(iii) an employee, or*

*(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*

*(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

### Compliance Information

(1) Details of the attendance of each child in the ECCE 1 and ECCE 3 rooms were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.

(3)(a)(b)

A record was maintained in writing in the service of any person other than those detailed above under regulation

(3)(a)(i)-(iv) who entered the service.

### 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) It was confirmed by review of staff files, the staff roster and in discussion with staff that three staff held in date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificates and someone with FAR training was available to the children at all times of opening.

(2) (a)

Adequately equipped first aid boxes were stored in conspicuous locations that were easily accessible throughout the service.

(b)

The first aid boxes were available to the children in the service at all times.

## 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.*
- (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 the last fire drill had taken place on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
  - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025, and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system was last carried out on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
  - (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.