

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015DY235

Name of Service Kids Inc Liberty Park

Address of Service: Unit 8, Liberty Park, Foley St, Dunlin 1, D01 X7N0

Email Address: info@kidsinc.ie

Name of Registered Provider: John Harnett

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	✓	Part-Time	✓	Sessional	✓
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Increase the number of children to 37 on a full-time basis. The change is proposed within the current care rooms.

Proposed Number of Children: 37

Recommended Change Following Inspection: 37 on a full-time basis

Registered change: Change in number of children from 34 to 37 children

Date of Inspection:	1	1	0	9	2	0	2	5
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Inspection undertaken by: T Nelson

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Years Inspectorate, 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5, The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin, Dublin 15 | D15 CF9K

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 37 Children
Date of Registration	9 th October 2025

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	Kids Inc Liberty Park is a full day care service located in a residential area of Dublin City Centre and is currently registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 34 children aged 0 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday and is one of four services operated by the registered provider. The service currently operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme sessional service from 9.00am to 12.00pm.
Premises	Kids Inc Liberty Park operates from the ground floor of an apartment building and has three care rooms to include the Baby Room (0 to 18 months old), Toddler room (18 months to 2 years and 8 months old), and Montessori room (2 to 5 years old). There are sanitary facilities located off the main corridor, and a cot room located off the Baby room. Further sanitary facilities are available for staff. A fully enclosed outdoor area is located to the front of the premises.
Staffing	The registered provider employs nine staff to work in the service including the person in charge. The Director of Early Years Settings was present on the day of the inspection along with the nine staff. The registered provider does not work in the service.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Director of early years settings, the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)

(a) There is a designated person in charge and a person available to deputise 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1) The registered provider will ensure that an adequate number of adults will work directly with the children attending the service. It is proposed that there will be up to 9 adults caring for up to 37 children on a full-time basis.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)

(a) The proposed care rooms will provide adequate and suitable facilities for the children in the 0 to 6 years age range to play indoors.

- There are defined areas of interest in the rooms.
- There is an adequate supply of toys and resources available to support a range of play experiences.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furniture in the room is suitable for the age and stage of development of the proposed children. • Toys and equipment are stored on shelving and are visible and accessible to the children. • The equipment available to the children will provide them with challenging play experiences. <p>(b) There are adequate facilities for children to rest during the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a cosy area available in the care rooms where children can take a break from activities and rest. • There are nine cots available for children under the age of two years. • There are 13 low beds available for children over the age of two years. • There is a suitable and sufficient supply of bedlinen available. <p>(3)</p> <p>(a) There is an outdoor play area available to the front of the premises which is fully enclosed. A range of outdoor toys to facilitate physical play experiences for the proposed age range is available.</p>
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is documentary evidence that children will receive regular meals. • Hot meals will be provided by an external catering company and reheated in the service. There is a four-week menu plan available. • The breakfast and morning snacks will be provided by the service. • The afternoon snack will be provided by parents. • There is a fridge available in the care rooms for the appropriate storage of perishable foods. • There is a healthy eating policy in place and staff reported that there is provision for children with alternative diets and food preferences. • A water station is available in the care rooms where children have access to drinking water.
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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.

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is partially met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play materials are safe and suitable for use. • A risk assessment is available for the proposed outdoor play area identifying potential hazards. • Cleaning products are stored out of reach of children. • Appropriate waste disposal units are available in the sanitary areas. • There is provision in place to check on sleeping children. • The temperature of the cot room was maintained at 18°C. • Emergency exits are clearly indicated and are unobstructed.
Requirement not met:	<p>1. The water temperature in two sinks was not sufficient to support effective hand washing. The inspector recorded a temperature of 18.9°C:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The low sink in the Toddler room. • The sink by the door in the nappy change room.
Response from Provider:	<p>Works were completed on the 19 September 2025, and the water temperatures are now operating within the required range.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The requirement is now met.</p>

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

- (1) Documentary evidence is available that there will be a staff member trained to First aid Responder level available to the children during the operational hours of the service.
- (2)
 - (a) A suitably equipped first aid box is stored in the each of the care rooms and the hallway.
 - (b) The first aid boxes are easily accessible and available to adults.

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 firefighting 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

- (1) A record of the following is available:
 - (a) There is a template available to record fire drills that take place in the service.
 - (b) A written record is available to demonstrate the firefighting equipment in the premises was maintained in April 2025 and the smoke alarms were maintained on the 18 May 2025.
- (4) There are notices displayed throughout the premises of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire with a clear route indicated to the fire assembly point.

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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

The registered provider has evidence of insurance for a maximum of 38 children in a full day care service valid from 1 September 2025 to 27th March 2026.

The registered provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

The requirement is partially met.

- (a) The premises appears to be of a sound and stable structure.
- (b) The entrance door to the service is secured adequately to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons from gaining access. There is a magnetic lock system in place. Entry is by code access, and the door release button is up high out of reach of children.
- (c)
 - Windows provide natural lighting to the care rooms. The natural light can be augmented with artificial ceiling lighting as required. Ceiling lights are recessed and fitted with protective covers.
 - Heating is provided by thermostatically controlled underfloor heating. The temperature of the care rooms on the day of the inspection was maintained between 18 and 22°C.
 - The proposed care rooms have openable windows, and the sanitary accommodation is fitted with an operating mechanical ventilation system.
- (d) The care rooms are clean, maintained and in good repair. There is a cleaning schedule available to ensure regular cleaning of the rooms.

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	<p>(e) There is adequate and suitable sanitary accommodation available for the proposed number of children, with the details set out in the table below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number of toilets for children:</th> <th>Number of nappy change units:</th> <th>Number of sinks for children:</th> <th>Number of children this can accommodate:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> <td>66</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One nappy change unit and one sink is required for every 11 children in nappies. • One toilet and one sink is required in sanitary accommodation for every 11 children who are no longer in nappies and use a toilet. • Adequate provision is made for the privacy of children in the sanitary accommodation. • There are two toilets available for staff. One toilet and one sink are required in sanitary accommodation for every 8 staff. 	Number of toilets for children:	Number of nappy change units:	Number of sinks for children:	Number of children this can accommodate:	4	2	6	66
Number of toilets for children:	Number of nappy change units:	Number of sinks for children:	Number of children this can accommodate:						
4	2	6	66						
Requirement not met:	<p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One of the toilets in the sanitary accommodation by the Montessori room was leaking and is not suitable for use. It is acknowledged that the service is aware of this issue, and the toilet had been closed off from the children. 								
Response from Provider:	Works were completed on the 19 September 2025, and the toilet is now operational.								
Summary Comment:	The requirement is now met.								

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(4) 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 clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1) There is adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement of the 37 children proposed to attend the pre-school service. A total of 94.6 square metres is available.</p>
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(4) The minimum clear floor space is set out in the table below.

Room	Clear floor space m ² proposed by Registered Provider	Clear floor space m ² measured by EYI	Space required:	Number of children room can potentially accommodate:
Baby Room	36m ²	29.55m ²	0-1 years: 3.5m ² 1-2 years: 2.8m ²	8 FDC* or 10 FDC
Toddler room	31.3m ²	31.24m ²	1-2 years: 2.8m ² 2-3 years: 2.35m ²	11 FDC or 13 FDC
Montessori room	34m ²	33.82m ²	3-6 years: 2.3m ² Sessional: 1.818m ²	14 FDC or 18 sessional

*FDC – full day care