

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY331
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Eco Kidz Baggot Street
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Admissions Class, Scoil Chaitriona, 59 Baggot St Lower, Dublin 2.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D02H365
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Richard Lynch
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/10/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	12	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Ciara Harte
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable.
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### Description of service

Eco Kidz Baggot Street operates from Scoil Chaitríona in Dublin city centre. It is a privately owned service and is registered to provide care and education for no more than twenty pre-school children aged 3 - 6 years. It is one of four services operated by the registered provider. The service offers sessional care and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The pre-school operates from a designated classroom within Scoil Chaitríona primary school. Sanitary facilities for the pre-school are located adjacent to the care room, and the children have access to an enclosed outdoor area which is shared with some of the primary school classes. This outdoor area was not in use the day of the inspection. The service also offers a registered school aged childcare service in the afternoon.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs six staff including the designated person in charge who all work directly with the children attending the service. Four staff were present on the morning of the inspection. The registered provider does not work directly with the preschool children but attended the service to assist in facilitating the inspection and meet with the inspector.

### 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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16 Records in relation to the Preschool Service. As a result, the inspection included Regulation 16 (1)(h)(i)(j)(k).

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 on the day of the inspection under Regulation 23, in relation to a non-compliance identified under Regulation 23. A response was received from the registered provider which mitigated the risk identified. See body of report for details.

## Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes 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
- (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 designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.
  - (b) A review of the staff roster and discussion with management demonstrated that a designated person in charge was rostered to be on the premises the week of the inspection for the duration of the opening hours of the service. The person in charge was present in the service when the inspector arrived.
- (2) A review of paperwork and discussion with management showed there are currently six adults working directly with the preschool children. The files of all six adults were reviewed.
- (a) Seven written and validated references were available from past employers.
  - (b) Five written and validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.

- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all six adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
  - (d) Police vetting was available for six adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that 6 adults 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.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (3) A review of available records demonstrated one staff member had commenced employment within the service prior to procedures specified in paragraph (2) being carried out.
- One staff member was employed prior to the review and consideration of a garda vetting disclosure.
  - Two staff members were employed prior to the appropriate consideration of references.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider had a meeting with the manager on 06/10/2025 to discuss the inspection findings and highlighted that every new staff member must start work only after two references have been checked and Garda vetting is complete. Recruitment checklist will be completed and signed by the person in charge before a new staff member begins. No employee will start work without Garda vetting and two confirmed references.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- Service recruitment policy

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 has been addressed.

### 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) There were 12 preschool children being cared for by 4 adults on the day of inspection.
- (3) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived in the service unannounced and throughout 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

- (h) The registered provider had a mechanism in place for recording the daily arrival and departure of children to the service.
- (i) There was a staff roster available which was reflective of the staff present on the day.
- (j) Staff advised the inspector that the service had not administered any medication however the registered provider had ensured a mechanism was in place to record the administration of medication in the event it was required.

## Non-Compliance Information

(k) The registered provider did not ensure an accurate record was maintained for accidents and incidents. A sample of 9 records were reviewed and 6 were observed incomplete.

The following was observed:

- Three records did not include the child's full details or the signature of a parent confirming they had been informed of incident.
- Two records did not include the child's full details or the date the parent was informed of the incident.
- One record did not include the date the parent was informed of the incident.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

Meeting held with the teachers reminding and explaining how to fill out the forms and where to find the children's information in order to complete incident forms correctly. Managers will train new employees during the training week how to complete accident and incident reports and will assist if needed to fill out records. All training will continue to be conducted in line with our Accidents and Incidents Policy.

### Supporting documentation submitted

- Team meeting minutes.
- Service accident and incident policy.

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 16 has been addressed.

## 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

(1) (b) The following are examples of the care practices observed during the inspection:

- Staff gave the children clear guidance on the daily routine and supported transitions between activities during the day with the use of music and songs.
- Children were appropriately dressed for play in the outdoors. Children were encouraged to put on their own coats and assistance was given when necessary.
- Children's privacy and dignity was supported with the use of cubicles with doors in the sanitary area. Staff regularly reminded the children about toileting.
- The staff offered discreet supervision during toileting and assisted with personal care needs such as handwashing and blowing noses.
- Staff actively engaged with the children at their level they encouraged the children's participation in activities while allowing for children's choice.

## 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:

- Furniture used by the children was observed to be maintained and suitable for use.
- Cleaning products were stored safely out of children's reach.

##### Infection Control:

- Windows were open for ventilation allowing fresh air to circulate.
- Children were supported to wash their hands following play outdoors.
- Children's lunches containing perishable items were stored in a refrigerator.
- Foot pedal bins and dispensed hand soap were available in the sanitary area to support effective hand hygiene practices.

##### Fire Safety:

- The emergency exit was free from obstruction.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. The outdoor area observed in use on the day of inspection was not secure and posed a risk of children exiting the premises unsupervised. This posed a significant risk to children's safety, and an immediate action notice was issued.
2. Numerous hazards were present in the outdoor play area in use on the day of inspection which posed a potential safety risk to children. Items included but were not limited to a glass, stagnant water and rusted screws.
3. A trailing blind cord and trailing flexes from a computer and printer were accessible to children and posed a potential risk of strangulation.
4. A child was observed to have whole grapes as part of their lunch. This posed a potential choking hazard and was brought to staffs' attention on the day by the inspector.
5. Radiators in the care room accessible to the children had a surface temperature of 44.9°C and 48.5°C which posed a potential risk of injury to children.

### Fire Safety:

- Children's attendance records were not maintained in a timely manner. A review of attendance records at 9.34am and at 10.55am demonstrated that one child who was present in the service was not signed in. This posed a potential risk of hindering safe evacuation of the premises in the event of an emergency.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

- The manager informed the team to no longer use the garden area which is not enclosed immediately following the inspection. Instead, the service will use the designated enclosed area they have access to.
- Hazards have been removed. This area is no longer in use and all new staff members will be informed of this.
- The trailing blind cord has been fixed, and the computer and printer trailing flexes are no longer accessible to the children.
- A meeting was held with the team about the importance of grapes being chopped up and also to check the children's lunch boxes when they get in the classroom. An email was sent to the parents regarding food safety. All new teachers will be trained in food safety.
- The radiator temperature was adjusted, and furniture has been moved so children no longer have access to the radiator. The manager is in charge of checking the radiator temperature and in the absence of the manager, the Lead Educator will assume this responsibility.

### Fire Safety:

- Teachers were informed about the importance of including all children in the attendance, children must be signed and signed out the moment they enter the room and the moment they leave our care.; Management is closely monitoring the attendance list. A meeting was conducted with the entire team. New employees will undergo training during the training week, before classes commence. This structured approach ensures that they are fully prepared and equipped for their roles. Additionally, the manager will actively oversee the attendance list on a daily basis at to guarantee the process.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

- Team meeting minutes.
- Photographic evidence.
- Copy of communication to parents.

## Fire Safety:

- Team meeting minutes.

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the 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) A review of available documents and conversation with management demonstrated that a person qualified in First Aid Responder training was available during the operational hours of the service to the children attending the pre-school on the day of inspection.

## Non-Compliance Information

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box was not available. A review of the first aid box available demonstrated that the burn dressings had expired in March 2025. A suitably equipped and easily accessible to adults first aid box should be available at all times to support the care and safety of children attending the service.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

The entire First Aid box review was carried out, and the burn dressings have been changed. Additional First Aid supplies were acquired for replenishment after use. A checklist of the First Aid box will be completed every two months or after each use.

### Supporting documentation submitted

- Photographic evidence.

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 25 has been addressed.