

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY335		
Name of Service:	Kidd's Care Montessori School		
Address of Service:	14 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D02 HE42		
Name of Registered Provider:	Emmet Rice , Joyce Grant Rice		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date of Inspection:	06/07/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM 17
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15		
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne and E Griffin		
Title:	Early Years Inspectors		

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

Kidd's Care Montessori School provides a full day care service and is located in Dublin 2. It is open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday providing care to children aged 0-6 years old. The service is based in the basement of a Georgian house. In the basement of the building, there are two care rooms – the Toddler room and the Wobbler room, a dedicated cot room, a kitchen for food preparation and two sanitary facilities one for nappy changing and one for the staff. At the rear of the property there is a Log cabin where one care room is located - the Montessori room with one sanitary facility for use by children. There is an enclosed outdoor area at the rear of the property. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) programme for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

On the day of Inspection, there were six adults present - the deputy person in charge, five staff members working directly with children. The registered providers were not present on the day of 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 – (2)(a), (b), (c), (d), (3) (4)

Regulation 11- (1), (2), (8)(a),

Regulation 21

Regulation 22

Regulation 23

Regulation 25 - (1), (2)

Regulation 26

Regulation 27

Regulation 29

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under: Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,

The scope of the inspection included the, the Wobbler room, Toddler room and Montessori Room.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment and Regulation 11 Staffing Levels were assessed across all the rooms.

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 deputy *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

(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

(2) During the Inspection, the files of seven staff members were reviewed.

(a) Two written and validated references were available for six staff members from a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for one staff member from a past employer.

(b) One written and validated reference was available for one staff member from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting was available for seven staff members.

(d) International police vetting’s were available in respect of five staff members who had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) The qualifications of seven staff members were reviewed:

Evidence was available from seven files reviewed demonstrated that seven staff members who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs (DCEDIY) .

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were six adults working with 17 children during the inspection day.

(2) The required adult/child ratio were maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times.

Wobbler room - 1 adult to 3 children aged between 1 to 2 years.

Toddler room - 2 adults to 7 children aged between 18 months to 3 years.

Montessori room - 2 adults to 7 children aged between 2 years 6 months to 5 years.

The deputy person in charge were present and available in a supernumerary role to support for food preparation, nappy changes and breaks.

(8) (a) The register provider ensured that there were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The care rooms in the service were designed with the age and stage of development having been taken into consideration. Children were observed to take part in free play and group work on the day of inspection. The layout of the rooms facilitated these choices as the toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving and were visible and accessible to the children. There was equipment to reflect the children’s interests and their emergent curriculum.
- Artwork and activities completed were on display to include Fish in the sea in the Wobbler room, Animal art of elephants, lions, tigers and flamingos in the Toddler room and glitter flowers, sunshine’s and faces in the Montessori room.
- The presence of Family wall displays at children’s level and birthday time displays in all care rooms demonstrated a sense of identity and belonging for the children.
- There was a variety of play materials and equipment available to the children according to their age and stage of development, stored in photographic labelled boxes and on low shelves to include: arts and crafts materials directly accessible to the children in art boxes; home areas with play kitchens with supporting equipment of play scales, play microwave, cash registers, range of construction toys to include jigsaws and wooden puzzles, wooden building blocks, plastic building bricks, stickle bricks, building cubes, large nuts and bolts ; sorting and stacking toys; toys for transporting such as cars trucks and a garage, trains with train tracks and small world play toys of dolls houses with furniture and small characters, animals and dinosaurs; for imaginary play dress up clothes instruments, mirrors on walls, dolls , dolls clothes, dolls highchair, dolls cot, work bench with tools, doctors set, hairdressing equipment; for sensory play sensory trays with pasta ; Montessori materials supporting the areas of practical life, sensorial, language, maths and culture were present.
- Each care room had a cosy area of soft floor mats with cushions and books for rest and relaxation.
- There was a sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played and ate in each care room.

- An outdoor play area was available for the children with both artificial grass and soft ground surface. The equipment and toys available included a slide, a climbing frame with a slide, a playhouse, a mud kitchen and a play kitchen, a scooter, a trike, ride on cars providing learning opportunities for children.

Non-Compliance Information

1. In the outdoor play area, areas of interest were not observed for example supporting equipment for the mud kitchen and kitchen or for the playhouse to support the play, learning and imagination opportunities for children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. New toys have been purchased to allow children to engage in messy play and home play in the garden. Manager will check weekly when risk assessing that adequate toys are available in the garden to facilitate this type of play.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Receipt for purchase of new toys and Photographic Evidence of kitchens in garden.

Summary Comment

Under Regulation 21 the non-compliance outlined above has been addressed.

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.

Compliance Information

- The service followed a four-week menu plan for the main dinner which was on display in the hallway. Food provided within the service was prepared in the onsite kitchen with the main dinner supplied by an external catering company. On the day of inspection, the dinner served was sausage casserole with potato.
- Meals were prepared to suit the stages of development of the children in each care room.
- The children were given support and supervision when self-feeding.
- Drinks of water were available throughout the day.

Non-Compliance Information

1. No menu was available for breakfast provided between 8am and 9am, for snacks provided at 10 am and 2pm and for the afternoon bigger snack provided at 3pm.
2. Children attending a full day care service were not offered food every 3 hours, in the Montessori room, dinner was provided at 11.30am and afternoon snack was provided at 3pm.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A new menu has made to include breakfasts and snacks, the person in charge will write up a menu weekly and display it.
2. Fruit snack is now given to all children between 2pm and 2.30pm

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic Evidence of Menu Submitted
2. Photographic Evidence of Menu Submitted

Summary Comment

Under Regulation 22, The non-compliances outlined above have been addressed.

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:

- On the inspectors unannounced arrival at the service, access to the main door was monitored and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Attendance records were maintained and updated as children arrived or left.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.

Infection Control:

- The service was observed to be clean with daily and weekly cleaning schedules available and completed by staff.
- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children.
- Individual bed linen was available to the children and was stored individually labelled plastic bags.

Administration of Medication:

- Care plans were available for children requiring medication, and staff were trained and aware of the practices required around these childrens needs.

Safe Sleep:

During sleep time, the following was observed:

- The sleep needs for children under 2 years of age, were facilitated with access to cots for sleep.
- The sleep needs of children over two years of age were met through the provision of soft floor sleep mats and comfortable rest areas available in the care rooms.
- Children were provided with cellular blankets for sleep.
- Sleep checks were completed every 10 minutes by staff members during sleep time of children.
- Shoes and clothing were removed from children while they slept.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the Outdoor area, six prongs of a window grate were rusty with sharp edges and accessible to children, leading to a risk of injury.
2. In the Toddler room, four trailing flexes were accessible to children, leading to a risk of injury.
3. In the Wobbler room, one low level pane of glass of the window was cracked and accessible to children, posing a risk of injury.
4. In the Montessori room, the mirror on the wall was cracked and accessible to children, posing a risk of injury.
5. In the Toddler room, one wall tile was chipped exposing a sharp edge, posing a risk of injury.
6. The hot water in the wash hand basin of the sanitary facility in the Log Cabin did not have thermostatically controlled water; the temperature was recorded as 45.7° C at 12.32 pm, exceeding the allowable maximum temperature of 43 ° C.

Infection Control:

7. Three nappy changing procedures were observed and were not completed as per the service policy and best practice guidelines, for example:
 - gloves and aprons were worn for the duration of the three nappy changing procedures.
 - one child's hands were washed with the assistance of the staff member who was still wearing the gloves worn to change their nappy.
 - Two childrens hands were not washed after their nappies were changed.
8. Handwashing was not completed as per the service infection control policy as follows:
after outdoor play, before dinner and after nappy changing, the inspector also observed hands of a child dirty from food after dinner wiped with a dry paper towel not washed with water.
9. A toilet plunger beside the toilet in the children's nappy changing sanitary facility in the basement of the building was accessible, leading to a risk of cross infection.
10. In the Wobbler room sink, the water was cold and no soap was present, this is not conducive to effective handwashing.
11. In the Cot room, there was no washable / wipeable covers on two mattresses, posing a risk of cross infection, Cots will be checked daily for mattress covers.

12. The radiator cover in the Toddler room had exposed wood where paint had chipped off, making it difficult to keep clean.

Safe Sleep:

13. The temperature of the rooms while children slept were recorded as follows:

Sleep Room	Times and temperatures recorded	
Toddler room (Children aged 18 to 3 yrs.)	12.02pm	20.5°C
Cot room (Children aged 1 to 2 years)	12.55pm	20.6 °C

This exceeds the recommended temperature of 16-20 °C while children sleep.

Fire Safety

14. No fire assembly sign was present to demonstrate the fire assembly point on evacuation of the building in the event of a fire

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The window grate has been removed and clear plastic Perspex placed in front of window.
2. In the toddler room, all trailing flexes have been removed.
3. The glass pane in the wobbler room has been replaced.
4. The cracked mirror has been removed in the Montessori room.
5. The chipped tile in the toddler room has been fixed.
6. The thermostat in the basin in the log cabin has been turned down.

Infection Control:

7. During staff meeting, staff were reminded of the importance of adhering to our nappy changing policy.
8. During the staff meeting the importance of proper handwashing was highlighted.
9. The toilet plunger has been removed from the bathroom.
10. Soap has been replaced in the Wobbler room. A new wash hand basin with water heater has been installed.

11. Washable mattress covers are available for all cots.
12. The radiator covers in the toddler room have been painted.

Safe Sleep:

13. Fans and iced water are used if the temperature goes over 20 degrees. The temperature in the sleep areas will be checked more regularly throughout the day.

Fire Safety

14. A fire assembly sign has been placed at our fire assembly point.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic Evidence submitted.
2. Photographic Evidence submitted.
3. Photographic Evidence and Receipt for Work completed submitted.
4. Photographic Evidence submitted.
5. Photographic Evidence submitted.
6. No Evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

7. Agenda of Staff meeting held 1st September and evidence of Staff attendance submitted.
8. Agenda of Staff meeting held 1st September and evidence of Staff attendance submitted.
9. Photographic Evidence submitted.
10. Photographic Evidence submitted of additional sink with heater installed.
11. No Evidence submitted.
12. Photographic Evidence submitted.

Safe Sleep:

13. Photographic Evidence submitted.

Fire Safety

14. Photographic Evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

Under Regulation 23, the non-compliances as outlined above 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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) While it is acknowledged that the service provided evidence that one adult was trained as a First Aid Responder, the roster demonstrated that they are not available at all times to the children attending the service, for example on the day of inspection there no person trained in first aid responder between 8am and to 9 am.
- (2) (a) and (b) While it is acknowledged that a suitably equipped first aid box was available in the Toddler room, safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position, the first aid box in the Log cabin - Montessori room was not suitably equipped as it contained out of date equipment for example , wound dressing expired 2021, Burn dressing expired 2020 & 2021, Triangular bandages expired 2021 .

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) A second Staff member completed their First Aid Responder Training with an expiring date 14th July 2025.
- (2) The first aid box in the log cabin has been replenished.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) First Aid Responder Certificate Submitted.
- (2) Receipt to demonstrate purchase of First aid box supplies.

Summary Comment

Under Regulation 25, the non-compliances outlined above have been addressed.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 28th June 2023.
 - (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment demonstrating it was last serviced 16th September 2022 and for the number, type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms in the premises, which were last serviced on the 13th April 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

- The inspectors observed that the preschool children attending the service were supervised at all times

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated.*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non - Compliance Information

(c) Mechanical Ventilation in the Children’s nappy changing sanitary facility in the basement of the building was not working on the day of inspection to ensure stale and offensive odours were removed.

(d) In the Wobbler room, the blind cord was not fitted correctly.

(e) The Wobbler / Toddler room sanitary facility was equipped with one toilet, one nappy unit and one wash hand basin and the Log cabin sanitary facility was equipped with one toilet and one wash hand basin. On discussion with the deputy person in charge, while the number of children registered in the service is to a maximum of 30, the maximum attending is 25 - five in the wobbler room, eight children in the Toddler room and 12 in the Log cabin. Attendance documentation demonstrated as follows:

Date	No. of children present Wobbler/ Toddler rooms	No. of children present Log cabin – Montessori	Total no. of children in attendance.
Wednesday 29 th March 2023	12 children present	12 children present	24 children present
Monday 8 th May 2023	13 children present	12 children present	25 children present

One toilet or one nappy changing unit and one wash hand basin unit is required for every eleven children.

An additional one toilet and one wash hand basin are required.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(c) The ventilation unit has been scheduled to be fixed.

(d) The blind cord has been removed and operates now as a pull down, roll up blind. The service will not use cord blinds anymore.

(e) While the service tried to facilitate a 2nd toilet in the log cabin, the space is not available. The service currently has two toilets on the premises as the log cabin, toddler and wobbler are operating as 1 unit. If the numbers go over 11 in the Montessori Log cabin, the service will use the toilet inside the back door which is only a short walk from the log cabin and won't cause a delay for the children. Due to the change in sleep arrangements for children under 15 months the service would be in a position to place a 2nd changing area or toilet in the sleep area as less cots would be needed. However, this would remain in the main building. There is a shower unit in that room that is not being used so the service can remove it and place a toilet in there.

Supporting documentation submitted

(c) Photographic Evidence of new vent installed submitted

(d) Photographic Evidence of the blind cord removed

Summary Comment

(e) This non-compliance was identified on the last inspection on the 11th August 2022. The corrective action that an additional one toilet and one wash hand basin were to be installed in January 2023 was not completed. The service has proposed a plan to address this non-compliance. Regulatory compliance remains outstanding for Regulation 29(e) and will be assessed at the next inspection.