

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY335
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Name of Service:	Kidd's Care Montessori School
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Address of Service:	14 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D02 HE42
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Name of Registered Provider:	Emmett Rice, Joyce Grant Rice
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	30/07/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	19
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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
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
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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 staff toilet. 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.

Staffing

The two registers providers employ 8 staff to include the person in charge, six childcare staff and one relief staff member. The person in charge, a relief staff member present from 12pm to 2pm , were not assigned to a care room but available to assist staff and children if required . On the day of inspection , there were seven adults present - the person in charge and the relief staff member and five staff members working directly with children. The registered providers do not work in the service and 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 and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the regulations 9, 11, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 29.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of child. Regulation 11 Staffing levels was assessed across all rooms.

The scope of the inspection included the three rooms – the Wobbler room, the Toddler room and the Montessori room

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 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

(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) The files of the two registered providers, person in charge, the relief staff member, six staff and one contractor were reviewed.

(a) Thirteen written and validated references were available from a past employer.

(b) Nine written and validated references were available from a source other than past employer

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for eleven 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 four adults who had lived outside of the State for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that one registered provider and eight adults 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

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) The registered providers ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. On the morning of the inspection there were 5 adults working directly with 20 children aged between 1 to 6 years and in the afternoon of the inspection there were 5 adults working with 19 children aged from 1 to 6 years.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection, as follows:

- In the Wobbler room, there were 3 children aged 12 months to 2 years 8 months being cared for by 1 adult, in the morning and in the afternoon.
- In the Toddler room, there were 5 children aged 20 months to 2 years 8 months being cared for by 2 adults in the morning and 4 children aged 20 months to 2 years 8 months being cared for by 2 adults in the afternoon.
- In Montessori room, there were 12 children aged 2 years 8 months to 5 years being cared for by 2 adults in the morning and in the afternoon.

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

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured and the weekly staff roster demonstrated 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 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.
- The play materials and equipment provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present, to include Montessori materials supporting the areas of practical life, sensorial, language, maths and culture were present. Toys and materials were displayed on low shelving which allowed children to access them freely. Children had the freedom to choose from materials and equipment available to them.
- Child sized furniture of tables and chairs supported children’s independence.
- Cosy areas were present in all rooms with books available offering a quiet comfortable area for children to rest and relax during the day.
- The outdoor play environment to the rear of the premises was fully enclosed, with both artificial grass and soft ground surface. The outdoor toys were suitable and available and included a climbing frame with steps and slide, a sand pit with supporting equipment, a playhouse, a play kitchen, a small slide, balance bike, trike, scooters, seesaw and two boxes of outdoor toys, providing learning opportunities for children

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 supplied by an external caterer and a three-week menu plan for morning snack and afternoon big snack which was on display in the kitchen. On the day of inspection, morning snack of fruit was served at 10am, a hot meal served at 11.00/11.15am in the Montessori room and at 11.30am in the Wobbler and Toddler care rooms of Spaghetti Bolognese and between 2.30pm and 3pm, an afternoon snack of brioche cheese and fruit was served and a fruit snack served at 5pm.
- Water was available in each care room for the children to drink and milk was available at mealtimes.
- 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.

Non-Compliance Information

1. Children attending a full day care service were not offered food every 3 hours, for example, in the Montessori room, dinner was provided at 11.15am and afternoon snack was provided at 14.50pm. This was a non-compliance on the last inspection in July 2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Children attending full day care will be offered food every 3 hours. A timetable has been added to each room and in the kitchen and all staff have been updated on this requirement.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic Evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 22 has been adequately 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 unannounced arrival at the service by the inspector, the entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises throughout the inspection.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.
- The outdoor area was a safe and secure environment with play equipment and materials clean and suitable for use by the children.
- Nine mattresses had safety labels and washable wipeable surfaces or covers

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition throughout, with the premises and equipment observed to be visually clean.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled water, soap and paper towels and pedal operated lidded bins for disposal of paper waste.
- Handwashing was observed after nappy changing, after bathroom visits, after outdoor play and before and after mealtimes.
- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children and nappy changing was completed for the children, at set times or when required in accordance with the service policy.
- During sleep time, cots, low floor beds and low floor mats were positioned with the recommended 50 centimetres between each child.

Safe Sleep:

- The sleep needs for children under 2 years of age, were facilitated with access to cots or low floor beds for sleep.
- The sleep needs of children over two years of age were met through the provision of low floor mats.
- Shoes and clothing were removed from children while they slept.

- Ten-minute sleep checks were completed on the children for colour, breathing, position while children slept
- The temperatures of the cot room and care rooms were documented and maintained between the recommended temperatures of 18-22 °C while children over 1 years old slept and during the day.

Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.
- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed

Non-Compliance Information

Safe Sleep:

1. A completed and signed sleep plan was not in place for one child aged under two years who slept on a floor bed at sleep time. This is at variance to the guidelines that state a child can sleep on an approved alternative to a cot provided it is agreed with parents, and a sleep plan is established and signed.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Safe Sleep:

1. A completed and signed sleep plan will be available for any children under 2 years of age who sleep on a floor bed. All sleep plans will be checked by management before a child is transferred to a floor bed. The checking of Sleep plans has been added the service weekly risk assessment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Safe Sleep:

1. Completed sleep plan with parent signature and copy of weekly risk assessment.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately 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

- (2) (a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and safely stored in easily accessible and conspicuous positions in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The service provided evidence that one adult was trained as a First Aid Responder (FAR), however, the roster demonstrated that the adult trained as First Aid responder was 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 8.00am and 8.30am and between 5.30pm and 6.00pm. It is acknowledged one additional adult is booked to complete a FAR training course 1,2,3 September 2025 and five staff completed paediatric first aid training on 26 July 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) From 3rd of September 2025, two staff will be trained in First Aid Responder training and will rotate shifts of 8am to 5pm and 9am to 6pm. A third staff member has been booked to do First Aid Responder training in september 2025. Management will book First Aid Responder training in advance of expiry by adding First Aid Responder training check to the service weekly risk assessment.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) Copy of weekly risk assessment and evidence of booking first aid responder training for September 2025

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 25 has been adequately 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 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 of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 20 July 2025.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment demonstrating it was last serviced 11 October 2024 and for the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarm in the premises, which were last serviced on the 8 May 2025.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had adequate insurance for a maximum of 30 children attending the service on a full day care basis with an expiry date of 27 March 2026.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (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.*

Compliance Information

The service was observed to be

- (b) safe and secure.
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated in each care room.
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired.
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.