

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY375			
Name of Service:	Safari Childcare Kilmainham			
Address of Service:	Unit 3 Kilmainham Square, Inchicore Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8.			
Eircode:	D08 X958			
Name of Registered Provider:	Cian Powell, Kevin McGuinness			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	19/08/2025			
No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	21
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin			
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill			
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			

Description of service

Safari Childcare Kilmainham is a private childcare facility that was established in 2009 and is one of nine services operated by the registered providers in the Dublin and Wicklow regions. The service is registered as a full day care and offers the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. A school age service is also provided. The service caters for pre-school aged 2-6 years of age and operates between the hours of 07:30 and 18.30 on a Monday to Friday basis.

The early years service is located and operates from a single storey adapted unit in an apartment block complex situated in Kilmainham Square, Dublin 8. Three care rooms are provided and two care rooms were in operation on the day of inspection included the Toddler room catering for children aged 2 years and the Pre-School room catering for children aged 3-5years. The ECCE room was closed. An outdoor play area was available adjacent to the premises.

Staffing

In total nine staff are employed in the service including the person in charge. On the day of inspection five staff worked directly with the children. The person in charge and deputy manager were not included in the adult: child ratio but were available to provide additional support to staff throughout the day as required. The registered providers do not work in the service.

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.

Compliance was assessed under the following regulations.

9(1)(a), (b), (2) (a)-(d) and (4) Management and Recruitment

11(1), (2) and (8)(a) Staffing Levels

19 (1)(b) Health, welfare and development of child

23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

25(1), (2)(a) and (b) First Aid

26(1)(a)(b) and (4) Fire safety measures

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

(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.

(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 a named person to deputise.
 - (b) The person in charge was on the premises at all times during the inspection.
- (2) As part of the inspection process nine staff files were reviewed. Eight new staff had been employed since the last inspection on the 4 October 2023.
- (a) Sixteen written validated references were available from previous employers.
 - (b) One written validated reference was provided from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for nine staff employed in the service. Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for seven staff members who had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing that one staff member held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) and eight staff held the required qualification or equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) A second written validated reference was not available for one staff member.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a) Management confirm that the second written reference for the identified staff member has since been received and validated. This completes the staff member's recruitment file. To prevent this happening again, we have put a checklist in place to make sure both validated references are received and filed before a staff member starts work, this will be monitored by management and spot checked by the area manager.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of validated references.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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.*
- (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.*
- (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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were twenty one children attending the service being supervised by five adults on the day of inspection.
- (8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times of the inspection. The staff roster demonstrated that there are at least two adults on the premises at all times.

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) Meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly throughout the day. A hot meal of chicken casserole and mashed potato was served for lunch. Mealtime was sociable, children were given time to enjoy their meal together. Younger children were supported to feed themselves. Drinks of water were available within the rooms and were offered when children were eating.

Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection. Children's nappies were changed routinely and in between when required. Staff used these opportunities for warm one-to-one interactions. Older children went to the toilet independently while being closely supervised.

Children in the Toddler room were made comfortable for sleep their outer clothing and footwear were removed. Low level sleep mats were provided and the blinds were closed. A staff member supported children to settle and remained in the room when the children were sleeping.

All children spent time in the outdoor area during the day and were observed to enjoy engaging in physical and imaginary play. The outdoor area was fully enclosed and had a rubber tile surface. The area was well resourced with a range of developmentally appropriate play equipment.

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:

- External doors and the gate in the outdoor area were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- All cleaning agents and medication was stored safely out of reach of children. Childproof locks were in place on low level cupboards.
- Cord blinds were safely secured.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- Staff maintained a daily cleaning record.
- Staff reported bed linen is laundered weekly and stored in individual bags.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff were familiar with the medication policy. Medication given was recorded correctly by staff and signed by parents.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff were familiar with the safe sleep policy. Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. The sleep room was maintained at the required temperature while children slept.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the sanitary area used by the children from the pre-school room one of the toilet seat fittings was not secure and posed a potential injury risk.

Infection Control:

2. Nappy changing practice observed was inconsistent and practices observed in the service were inadequate to prevent cross contamination and the spread of infection as evidenced by the following.

Some staff did not follow the nappy changing policy and remove their soiled gloves which had been worn during nappy changing before re-dressing children. The pedal function of the bin was not used to dispose of the nappy instead the bin was lifted by hand. The nappy changing mat was not consistently cleaned in between nappy changes. There was no liquid soap available for some of the nappy changes observed.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The toilet seat fitting in the pre-school sanitary area has been repaired and is now secure. The area was checked immediately to remove any risk of injury. To prevent this happening again, regular maintenance checks have been added to our cleaning/room safety checklist to ensure fittings remain safe and secure.

Infection Control:

2. Immediate actions were taken:
 - Staff have been reminded and retrained on the correct nappy changing procedure, including glove removal, proper use of the bin pedal, and consistent cleaning of the nappy mat between each change.
 - Liquid soap has been replaced and checks are now in place to ensure it is always available at changing areas. Management have updated our daily room checklists to include soap supply, bin function, and mat cleaning. Ongoing spot checks will be carried out by room leaders/management to ensure consistent practice and to prevent any risk of cross-contamination.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic and written evidenced.

Infection Control:

Written evidence.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location in three designated areas within the service.
 - (b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) A person trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training was not available at all times. Between 16:30 and 18:30 there was no staff member with FAR training present rostered to be present. It's acknowledged when this was pointed out the person in charge with FAR training remained in the service until close.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) There are three staff members trained in FAR. On the day in question, the manager (FAR trained) remained in the service until close. Management are arranging for additional staff to complete FAR training, to cover unexpected absences. Management will monitor this through rota checks to make sure compliance is maintained at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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 monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 02 July 2025.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment and the smoke alarm system had taken place on 14 August 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.