

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY377		
Name of Service:	Krazy Kids & Co t/a Creative Kids & Co		
Address of Service:	The Haven, St James' Primary School, Basin Lane, Dublin 8, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D08 EC96		
Name of Registered Provider:	Bronagh Mooney		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	24/05/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	30	PM 7
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, 2 nd Floor, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.		
Inspection undertaken by:	M Foley		
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

The service is located in the Haven building which is the grounds of St James's primary school.

The service consists of 2 childcare rooms, named the Red room and the Yellow room, a kitchen, and sanitary facilities on the ground floor. The outdoor play area is on the grounds of the school and there is a large, covered area alongside another area which has an all-weather surface.

The service provides childcare and education to children aged from 2 to 5 years old and offers full day, part-time and sessional childcare. The service participates in the early childhood care and education (ecce) scheme. Opening times are from 8am to 6pm daily.

School aged children are catered for from 1.10 to 6pm daily.

Staffing

The service employs 7 childcare staff including the person in charge and one kitchen staff. The registered provider does not work directly with the children but is available to provide support if needed.

On the day of inspection, the 7 staff members were present, 5 childcare staff work directly with the children and the person in charge, the deputy person in charge were available to provide assistance and support and cover breaktimes as needed.

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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 (1), (2) & (4), regulation 11 (1) & (2), regulation 15 (a) to (i), regulation 21, and regulation 25. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Records of a Pre-school child.

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 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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 has a designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise. Both staff members were present when the inspector arrived unannounced to carry out an inspection.
 - (b) Sign-in records indicated that the person in charge and the named person who can deputise are on the premises during opening hours.
 - (c) There was clear management structures in place and staff were aware of the roles and responsibilities of each staff member.
- (2) The files of 7 staff members were reviewed.
- (a) Five staff members had 2 written and validated references from a past employer.

- (b) Two staff members had 2 written and validated references from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) The required garda vetting documents were available for inspection in the 7 files reviewed.
- (d) Two staff members who required international police vetting, had it on file and available for inspection.
- (4)

There was documentary evidence to show that the 7 staff members held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children on the day of inspection.

In the Yellow room, there were 11 children and 3 staff members providing care. The children were aged between 3 and 5 years old.

In the Red room, there were 19 children and 2 staff members providing care. The children were aged between 3 and 5 years old.

The person in charge and the named person who can deputise were available to provide additional support and break cover when needed.

(2) Staff rosters and staff sign in records and the number of staff members present on the day of inspection indicated that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

Ten childcare records were reviewed, and 5 were from the yellow room and 5 from the red room.

The files had the required information to address regulation 15 (1)(a) to (i) above.

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

Both care rooms were well ventilated, bright, and well maintained.

Each room was equipped with age appropriate and an adequate number of tables, chairs, low level shelving, toys and equipment.

The Yellow room and The Red Room.

- Areas of interest for the children included, an arts and crafts area, a library area, a rest and relaxation area, a home area, and a construction area. Each area was supplied with associated toys and equipment.

- A numerical area with a variety of counters, peg boards, crayons, pencils, abacus and mix and match boards were easily accessible to the children and children were observed enjoying time with these items.
- The theme of the week was “The Farm” and discussions, songs about the Farm were heard. Drawings of animals were on display and more were being made.
- During outdoor play time for the children from the Yellow room, staff members facilitated circle time on low benches, conversations about their planned Farm Day and singing of “Old Mc Donald were heard.
- There was a fridge in use in each room, it was used to store each child’s snack until needed. Parents provided the snack, and these were observed to be healthy and in keeping with the services Healthy Eating policy.
- A locked press under the sink unit was used to store cleaning solutions out of reach of the children.

The Red Room

- Additionally, the room had a ladder up to a small relaxation area and the children were aware that the area was for the use of a maximum of 2 children at any one time. Soft furnishing and soft lights were in place with books in place to support rest and relaxation.
- There was a second larger relaxation area available in the room.
- Shades of colour posters were on display in the arts and crafts area.

The outdoor area.

- Was divided into a covered area and an all-weather surface area. There were sand boxes, water tables, low level tables with attached seating to support tabletop activities, an activity centre with ladders up to the platform and a yellow-coloured slide down. The sand boxes had shovels, containers, and shapes ready for use.
- Balancing beams were fixed in place and functioned as seating in between being used to balance and walk on.
- A small portable garage and a buggy was available.
- Two wall mounted white boards were at a level suitable to for the children to draw on.
- Two small trees were recently planted, and the children are involved in their ongoing care.
- The children from both care rooms enjoyed time in the outdoor play area on the day of inspection and outdoor playtime was scheduled in on the services daily roster

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) & (b)

A suitably equipped first aid box was available for use if needed and it was stored in an easily accessible place where staff members could access it.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was only 1 FAR certificate available for inspection and it was out of date as the expiry date was 08/11/22.

It is acknowledged that 2 staff members had in date paediatric first aid certificates available for inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Two staff members completed the First Aid Responder (FAR) course in June 2023.

Supporting documentation submitted

Submitted a copy of 2 FAR certificates and the expiry dates were 9/6/2025.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance outlined in regulation 25 above has been addressed.