

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL063
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Name of Service:	Children's Kingdom
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Address of Service:	2 Deerhaven Walk, Clonee, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D15 X7Y5
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Name of Registered Provider:	Livia Stancikova
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	01/05/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child and Family Agency Dublin North, Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford
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

The Children's Kingdom is a private childcare service which operates from a purpose built premises at the side of the registered providers residence. An outdoor area is located to the front of the service. The service caters for children aged between 2 to 5 years and operates from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. On the day of inspection the service was operating a sessional service from 9:30am to 1pm.

Staffing

The service employs three staff to include the registered provider, childcare staff member and an emergency contact person who is available to assist if required. The registered provider was working with the children 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 the children. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1)(2)(8)(a),

Regulation 15 Record of a pre-school child (1)(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f),(g),(h) and (i),

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,

Regulation 25 First Aid and
Regulation 26 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 registered provider 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

The registered provider had completed the following checks:

(2)(a)(b) Two written references were available for the registered provider along with four validated written references from a past employers or a source other than a past employer for the staff member and emergency contact.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for three staff in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Documentary evidence showed that two adults had lived outside of the state for six months or more as adults and international police vetting from that state was available for inspection.

(4) Two staff members employed within the service had evidence to confirm they held 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)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) There was one adult working directly with four children during the operation of the sessional service.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times. The adult child ratios were maintained as follows;

Main care room: 1 adult to 4 children aged between 2.5-5 years

(8)(c) On the day of inspection the service was operating a sessional service from 9:30am to 1pm due to staff shortages. The registered provider ensured that a second person who was familiar with the service was always available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

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

- (1) On review of eight children's files the following particulars were recorded.
- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
 - (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.
 - (c) The records had a section for documenting the date when children ceased attending the service.
 - (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service.
 - (e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children.
 - (f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities, and dietary preferences for children.
 - (g) The name and telephone number of the child's medical practitioner.
 - (h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.
 - (i) There was written parental consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency.

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 service was bright, spacious, and well maintained. The care room had children's artwork displayed on the walls. Children's independence was supported with low level hooks for hanging their coats and low-level sinks within the sanitary facility for handwashing. Suitably sized tables and chairs were available for meals and table-top activities.
- A rest area was provided consisting of soft matting, child size seating and books. The children were free to move in the care room which was laid out with low level shelving making toys visible and accessible. Toys and materials were varied and suitable to the age and developmental stages of the children; these included blocks, puzzles, art, and craft materials, play kitchen, cars, trucks, and floor games.

- The outdoor play areas consisted of concrete paving with space for the children to run and use the tricycles and scooters provided. The children had access to water and sand play, chalk board with chalk, obstacle course, cars, trucks and ride on toys. A planting area was available for the children during time outdoors with soil, spades and plants.

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) One staff member held First Aid Responder (FAR) certification with an expiry date of July 2025.
- (2) The first aid box within the service was suitably equipped.
- (a) The first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.
 - (b) The first aid box was available to adult attending the children at all times.

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 record was available detailing fire drills carried out in the service. The most recent fire drill was dated 29 April 2024.
- (b) A record was available showing the number and type of firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm in the service. Records showed that maintenance was carried out on the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm in December 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position.