

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE111
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Name of Service:	Whizz Kids Creche & Montessori
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Address of Service:	Ashbrook House, Togher Road, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W34 P205
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Name of Registered Provider:	Camella O'Sullivan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	19/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	3
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate TUSLA Child & Family Agency Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare W91 X38W
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Maher, LA. Webster
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

Whizz Kids Crèche and Montessori is a private childcare service located in Monasterevin Co. Kildare. Full day, part time and sessional care and education is provided for children aged 1-6 years old. The service is registered to provide school age childcare. Opening hours are from 07:30am-18:00hrs, Monday-Friday. The service operates from an extension to the side of a private dwelling. Two pre-school rooms, a kitchen and office are provided and play areas are located at the front of the building.

Staffing

There were four adults present in the service on the day of the inspection. There were two adults working directly with the pre-school children, this included the registered provider and person in charge, one staff member was working with school age children, the office administrator arrived at the service mid-morning.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 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)

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c) The service had a clear, documented management structure and was displayed in the entrance hall to the rear of the service.

The files of nine adults employed were reviewed on inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

Ten written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were available in respect of five adults whose records were reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults employed and/or present 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) Police vetting was not required as no adult had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.

(4)

Of the nine staff records reviewed the adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source in the absence of a past employer reference(s), were not available in respect of four adults employed in the service whose records were reviewed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Four staff files with references verified are on now file.

All references will be on file and verified before commencement of new staff on the premises in future.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documents X 8

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b) 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.

(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 4 children attending the service being supervised directly by 2 adults.

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

(8)(a)

There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection, this was confirmed by the daily staff roster for the service.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(i)

The staff roster was available and included the relevant details outlining each staff members' allocated room and hours of work.

(j) Medication had not been administered to a child in the service in the previous 12-month period as advised by the person in charge, documentation was available to be completed if medicine was administered to a child attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(k)

A sample size of 10 accident and incident forms were reviewed between 27/05/2024-12/02/2025.

There was inadequate information documented on the forms as follows,

- Five of the forms did not have the child's full name and date of birth recorded.
- Two forms did not have the parent's signatures recorded.
- One form did not have the child's date of birth recorded.
- One form did not have the date the accident/incident occurred.
- The signature of the staff member completing two forms was absent.
- There was no evidence that management reviewed or signed three of the forms.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

With immediate effect, the Accident and Incident book is now held in the office, which ensures staff and management will complete the forms correctly.

Management will check the book weekly to ensure it is completed fully and in compliance with policy. All staff have been briefed on the Policy and procedure to prevent re occurrence.

Supporting documentation submitted

None submitted.

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 16(1)(k) has been met, this area of practice will be reviewed at the time of the next inspection.

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

There was a variety of age-appropriate toys, materials and equipment available indoors and outdoors for children to use and play with throughout the day. The resources and materials in the pre-school rooms facilitated all types of play and learning and encouraged fine motor development activities. Low level open shelving ensured resources were freely available and easily accessible to the children in the pre-school rooms. Child sized tables and chairs provided areas for the children to sit comfortably for tabletop activities and when eating snack/dinner. There was a selection of art and craft materials available including, paint, paper, crayons and materials for gluing, cutting and sticking and areas of interest that included dress up, kitchen/home corner and construction areas. The equipment in the outdoor area encouraged a variety of gross motor activities and included a wooden teepee, wooden and plastic climbing frames, balance beams, a wooden boat structure and a selection of ride on cars and trikes. A covered area ensured play could continue during inclement weather.

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 had a healthy eating policy in place and provided the main hot meal of the day to the children attending on a full-time basis. The hot meal was provided by an outside catering company and reheated in the onsite kitchen by an assigned staff member trained in food safety. The hot meal served was pasta marinara. Parents provided all snacks for their child and snacks observed included sandwiches with healthy fillings, fresh fruit pieces and yoghurts. Milk was offered with dinner and drinking water was freely available. The staff members advised the inspector they encouraged healthy eating practices with the children and incorporated discussions about food and food choices on a regular basis.

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:

The main entrance gates to the premises were secured with an electronic release system and was controlled by the staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. Staff members advised the inspectors they immediately cut/chop any food that may pose a choking risk to a child at snack and mealtimes.

Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Two trailing electrical flexes were observed in the Rainbow room and posed a potential injury risk to the children. Immediate corrective action was taken by the inspector to secure both flexes.
2. The fire extinguisher in Rainbow room was partially occluded by the fish tank and stand and posed a risk if immediate access in an emergency was hindered.

3. The following safety concerns were identified in the outdoor play area and posed a risk to children from a scrape injury or in the case of the trike, a child becoming unstable and slipping off:
- The plastic foot board on one scooter was cracked and broken.
 - A pedal was missing from one trike.
 - Part of the plastic frame on the raised playhouse was cracked and broken.
 - The rim of a large plastic flowerpot, adjacent to the wooden sand tray, was cracked and broken and accessible to the children should they be playing in this area.
4. Daily indoor room risk assessments and outdoor risk assessments were not being completed to identify and mitigate the risk to children from any hazards observed.

Infection Control:

5. The following infection control risks were observed in the Rainbow room:
- The children did not have their hands washed when they returned from outdoor play.
 - A small fridge in the room, that was not plugged in, contained an out-of-date yoghurt and an apple which had rotted; the fridge had not been checked or recently cleaned.
 - The floor mat in the rest area was soiled and stained and required cleaning.
6. A large amount of stagnant water was observed in the sand tray and posed a risk to the children. It is acknowledged the registered provider immediately emptied the water when it was brought to their attention.
7. There was no hot water at the wash hand basins in the sanitary areas during the morning. It is acknowledged there was hot water available when it was rechecked by the inspector at 12:40pm.
8. Rolls of toilet paper were stored in open containers in both sanitary areas; this was unsuitable for infection control purposes.
9. The nappy change mat on the nappy change table in the Butterfly room sanitary area, was observed torn exposing the internal foam and a second nappy change mat that was stored against the change table was in contact with the floor and also observed torn exposing the internal foam; this posed a risk of cross contamination from the floor and also both could not be effectively cleaned.
10. There was an open bin with used paper towel accessible to the children in Rainbow room sanitary area and posed a risk of cross infection.
11. There was no paper towel available for hygienic hand drying in the wall mounted units in both sanitary areas, a roll of paper towel was observed placed on the sink unit in Rainbow sanitary area, this posed an infection control risk. It is acknowledged the paper dispensers were refilled when it was brought to the attention of a staff member.

12. The wipeable strip of wallpaper adjacent to the nappy change table in Butterfly sanitary area was hanging off the wall; this prevented the area to be adequately cleaned for infection control purposes.
13. There were no splash backs and the rubber sealant had eroded from the sinks in the Butterfly sanitary area and therefore could not be effectively cleaned for infection control purposes.
14. A build-up of grime/dirt was observed at the base of the wall and skirting board in one toilet cubicle in Rainbow sanitary area.
15. Cleaning schedules were not maintained in the service.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

General Safety:

Corrective Action

1. No written response. (Preventive action given).
2. Fish tank has been moved and fire extinguisher is easily accessible.
3. Outdoor Area, all broken toys, bikes, trikes and flowerpots have been disposed of. All outdoor equipment is suitable and in good working order.
4. We now have more suitable check lists in place which are being used daily to identify and mitigate the risk to children to any hazards observed.

Preventive Action

Daily walk around checks are now being carried out and documented by suitable staff member.

Infection Control:

Corrective Action

5. Regular hand washing now takes place in all rooms especially moving from outdoor to indoor areas. The fridge has been removed completely from the room. We have removed this mat and purchased a new one.
6. We are currently waiting on suitable persons to come and move the equipment as is too heavy, in the interim this is out of bounds in the play area with immediate effect on day of inspection and remains out of bounds until rectified.
7. All staff now have access to the water switch and the action has now been implemented onto our daily risk assessments to ensure hot water is available before room opens.
8. New sealed containers suitable for storage in the toilet area are now in place.
9. Mobile changing mat has been removed and new mat is in place on the nappy changing unit in the Butterfly Room.
10. Pedal bins are now in place in all bathrooms for used paper towels disposal.

11. Paper towels are now stored in the storage area with easy access for staff, allowing regular restocking to take place.
12. Butterfly Room decorative paper has been resealed temporarily.
13. White sealant has been used to replace the eroded sealant in the Butterfly Room. This is a temporary measure. Splash backs will be erected promptly.
14. Butterfly Room sanitary area has been deep cleaned and all dirt/grime removed from the areas.
15. Reviewed our cleaning sheets along with the risk assessments. We have made necessary changes.

Preventive Action

5. All staff have been briefed on Infection Control Policy, monitoring of weekly cleaning of items to ensure if needed, they are washed or removed more frequently.
6. The registered provider has confirmed that the sand pit will be rehomed under a covered area to ensure this does not happen again.
7. The registered provider is responsible for ensuring hot water is available daily.
- 8 - 10. Immediate action taken, all items removed and replaced.
11. This has also been reflected on our daily risk assessments.
- 12 & 13. The registered provider has sought quotations to revamp the sanitary areas and currently awaiting confirmation of commencement date.
14. The registered provider has sought quotations to revamp the sanitary areas and currently awaiting confirmation of commencement date. Our daily cleaning sheets now reflect the daily cleaning of all areas.
15. New cleaning schedules have been implemented and are in use daily in both rooms.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs X 9

Summary Comment

Following review by the inspectorate of the stated corrective/preventive actions, together with the submitted supporting evidence, the requirement for Regulation 23 has been met or will be met upon completed of works proposed. This area of practice will be reviewed at the time of the next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(2)

Not applicable as this was not a drop-in service.

(3) (a)(b)

The person in charge ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

1. The following observations were noted on the children's attendance records.

- The attendance record for the children attending the Butterfly room had not been completed since 4 February 2025.
- One child present in the service had not been recorded in the attendance record.
- The attendance record for the Rainbow room had been completed in advance for the following two days up and including the 20 and 21 February 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

An emergency staff meeting was held on the 21 February at 12.30 to outline the importance of logging correct attendance in real time. Staff training was conducted and all relevant staff acknowledged a full understanding of the policy.

Preventive Action

Weekly checks are done by management on all roll books to ensure all children are accounted for in the correct manner.

Supporting documentation submitted

None submitted.

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 24(1) has been met and this area of practice will be reviewed at the time of the next inspection.

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 present was trained in in first aid response (FAR) and was immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)

The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the pre-school rooms.

(b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available at all times to the adults caring for the children attending the service.

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 fire drills completed in the service; the last recorded fire drill was 9 February 2025.

(b) A maintenance record was kept of the firefighting and smoke alarm system in the premises. The firefighting equipment was serviced 26 September 2024 and the smoke/fire detection system was serviced 4 September 2024.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the service.

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

Children were observed being supervised at all times throughout the inspection by the staff caring for them both indoors in their care room, in the sanitary area and in the outdoor play areas.