

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D: TU2015KE190

Name of Service: Superkids Childcare Centre

Address of Service: Alexandra Walk, Clane, Co. Kildare, W91 HP26.

Email Address: superkidsclane@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Ms. Sandra Lobanovska

Type of Proposed Service: <i>(Tick the relevant services)</i>	Sessional	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change to service:	The number of preschool children that can be accommodated is to increase from 50 – 70. The age profile of the preschool children is changing from 1-6 years to 2-6 years.
Proposed Number of Children:	70
Registered Change:	Increase in number of children from 50 to 59 Change in age profile of children from 1–6 years to 2–6 years

Date(s) of Inspection:	Day	Month	Year
	1	9	1 0 2 0 2 0

Inspection undertaken by: T Duignan
Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace road,
Naas, Co. Kildare.

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Rationale for Inspection :

Proposed Change of Circumstance

To increase to the number of children that can be accommodated in the service at any one time due to a change in the age profile of preschool children from 1-6 years to 2-6 years. A standalone prefabricated unit has been added to the garden area to be used as a proposed pre-school room.

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Panel

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day Care service for 59 children
Date of Registration	15 th March 2021

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	<p>Superkids Childcare Centre has been operating as a full day care service, including part-time and sessional care since 2015 and caters for a maximum of 50 pre-school children aged 1-6 years old.</p> <p>After school services provide care to school aged children.</p> <p>Learning is facilitated through a play based curriculum.</p> <p>The service opens from 7.30am to 18.30hours Monday to Friday.</p> <p>The proposed change as advised by the registered provider is to increase the number of pre-school children the service can accommodate with the provision of a standalone prefabricated unit enclosed in the garden area to the rear of the premises.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates in a purpose built premises within a residential development on the outskirts of Clane. There is an outdoor area at the sides and rear of the premises where children have access to outdoor play directly from their own preschool room.</p>
Staffing	<p>Six staff are employed in the service and hold Early Childhood Care & Education qualifications at Levels 5- 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.</p>
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an unannounced (announced) Focused Inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on three themes; Governance, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the Inspection report and presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving registration.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) The registered provider has designated a person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider is advertising currently to recruit additional staff to ensure that adult child ratios are maintained when the service is back operating to capacity.

(8)

(b) Not applicable as this is not a childminding service.

(c) Not applicable as this is not a sessional service that operates single-handedly.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

- (1) *Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—*
- (a) *having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*
 - (b) *there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*
- (2) *A registered provider—*
- (b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—*
- (a) *a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or*
 - (b) *where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service*
- (4) *Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*
- (5) *Where pre-school children attending a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre have access to an outdoor space other than such a space specified in paragraph 4, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable.*

Requirement met:

The requirement is partially met.

- (1)
- (a) The service comprises of six pre-school rooms. The rooms are bright and spacious. The physical and material environments had been developed with dedicated play areas that included home/kitchen areas, construction areas and library areas. Art materials, table top, manipulative play materials and equipment for fine and gross motor activity skills were displayed on low level shelving.
- The outdoor play area was divided in to three distinct spaces and was covered in a grass surface in two of the areas and soft impact absorbing tiles in the area on the right hand side of the service. It was equipped with a mud kitchen, two wooden wigwams, a play house, slides, swings, trikes, scooters and push along toys. There were three large gazebos outside the preschool rooms which enabled outdoor use throughout the year particularly during inclement weather.
- A sufficient and appropriate number of child sized tables and chairs to cater for the proposed number of pre-school children were available.
- (b) Adequate facilities were provided for children to rest as required in designated areas while attending the service and were equipped with wipe able soft furnishings.

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	<p>There are 10 low level beds available for children aged over 2 years requiring sleep during the day.</p> <p>(2)(b) The outside play area was safe and secure enclosed by a combination of perimeter walls and fencing with secured side gates.</p>
Requirement not met:	<p>(1)</p> <p>(a)</p> <p>1. The proposed additional pre-school room adjacent to the Toddler room did not have sufficient play materials and resources to meet the needs of the proposed increased numbers of preschool children aged 2 -3years.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>2. The proposed additional pre-school room adjacent to the Toddler room did not have a furnished rest area to meet the needs of preschool children aged 2 -3years.</p>
Response from proposed Registered Provider:	<p>The written response received from the registered provider stated that:</p> <p>(a)</p> <p>1. The proposed additional preschool room has sufficient play materials.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>2. The proposed additional preschool room has a furnished rest area.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The written response and photographic evidence submitted in March 2021 has been reviewed and the requirement for regulation 20 is met.</p>

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink	
<i>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.</i>	
Requirement Met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>The service has a healthy eating policy in place.</p> <p>The service provides freshly prepared food for preschool children attending on a full day care basis. A three-week menu is available outlining all food served on a daily basis. Parents will be requested to provide a healthy snack for their child in line with the health eating policy of the service for preschool children attending on a sessional basis.</p>

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.

Requirement Met:

The requirement is partially met.
 Access to the premises is controlled by staff members. The door to the premises can be secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised. Cleaning agents are safely stored out of the reach of preschool children.
 There is storage space in the proposed pre-school room to store children’s personal belongings safely.
 The internal pre-school room doors are secured by thumb turn locks thus preventing children accessing the kitchen and other storage areas in the service.
 Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap, paper hand towels are available in the proposed pre-school room for hygienic hand washing and drying with foot pedal operated bins in the sanitary area and pre-school room for hygienic and safe disposal of used paper towel and tissues.
 The fire exit was clearly marked and unobstructed.

Requirement not met:

Infection Control

1. The kitchen attached to the Toddler room is used to accommodate the nappy change unit and facilitate nappy changing as needed; it is also used to store resources and staff personal belongings.
2. A leak-proof, cleanable and sealable airtight container was not available for the disposal of used nappies, gloves and aprons in the nappy change areas.
3. There was no pedal operated bin in bathroom between room 1 and 2 for the hygienic disposal of used paper towels and tissues.
4. Sweeping brushes were not stored out of reach of the preschool children in the preschool rooms which posed a potential risk of infection for the children.

General Safety

5. A hanging curtain was observed in rest area in room 3 which created a potential strangulation risk to a preschool child.
6. Visibility strips were not placed on the glass panels at the doors to the outdoor area in all the preschool rooms which created the potential risk of injury to a preschool child if they were not aware of the glass.

Response from proposed Registered Provider:

The written response received from the registered provider stated that:

Infection Control

1. Resources removed from the area and new storage press for staff belongings has been purchased.
2. An appropriate nappy bin has been placed in the nappy changing room.
3. Pedal Bin purchased and placed in bathroom between room 1 and 2.
4. All sweeping brushes are now stored in the large presses in each classroom and are child locked.

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	<p>General Safety</p> <p>5. This canopy has been removed.</p> <p>6. Visibility strips were already placed on the main door leading to our outdoor area, the tiny side panels of the door now also have visibility strips on them.</p>
Summary Comment:	The written response, video and photographic evidence submitted has been reviewed and the requirement for regulation 23 is met.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid	
	<p>(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.</p> <p>(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—</p> <p>(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and</p> <p>(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.</p>
Requirement met:	<p>The requirement is met.</p> <p>(1) Current certification in relation to first aid for children was available for the staff members that will be working in the service.</p> <p>(2)(a)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and accessible to children. They were observed to be stored in each preschool room; a first aid box was placed in a conspicuous position in the main hallway in the premises.</p>

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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 firefighting 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.

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

(1)

(a) Documentation was available for recording monthly fire drills. The last fire drill was conducted on 21st September 2020.

(b) There was a record available of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms. They were August 2019 and 15th July 2020 respectively.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was clearly displayed in the premises. A fire assembly point with clear signage was displayed.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement is met.

The registered provider had evidence of insurance cover for 70 children. The insurance cover was valid from 1st September 2020 to 28th February 2021.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

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

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement is partially met.

- (a) Visually, the proposed premise is in a state of good repair.
- (b) The proposed premise is secured from unauthorised entry by a main door which is electronically secured and controlled by staff members to prevent unauthorised access to the service and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. There are secured gates at the sides of the premises preventing unauthorised access to the outdoor play area.
- (c) There are openable windows in the pre-school rooms providing natural daylight and ventilation. Mechanical ventilation provides the ventilation in the sanitary areas where there is no window.
Strip lights with protective coverings provide adequate additional artificial lighting in the pre-school room.
The premise is heated by a gas fueled heating system. The pre-school rooms are heated by wall mounted radiators that are thermostatically controlled.
- (d) Daily cleaning schedules are in place for the pre-school rooms and the sanitary areas
- (e) Each pre-school room is equipped with two toilets and one wash hand basin for children’s use. In total there are eight toilets and five wash hand basins.
There are two nappy changing facilities in the premises. They are stand-alone units to facilitate nappy changing.
Two staff toilets with hand washing facilities are also provided.
Thermostatically controlled hot water was available at all hot water taps in the service.

Requirement not met:

- (c)
 1. The mechanical ventilation was not working in the sanitary area used by rooms 1 and 2.
 2. There was no ventilation in the nappy change facility located in the kitchen attached to the Toddler room.
 3. The lighting in the sanitary area used by rooms 3 and 4 was very dull.
 4. The sanitary area located between preschool rooms 3 and 4 requires painting as the walls were worn, chipped and stained.
- (d)
 5. Splash backs are required for the wash hand basins in the sanitary areas and the nappy change room adjacent to the Toddler room to support effective cleaning for the purposes of infection control in the service.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The soft close mechanism on the entrance door to the Toddler room was too fast and this could cause a potential injury to a preschool child or adult if the door closed quickly. 7. The wooden door on the first toilet cubicle in the sanitary area used by the toddler room was not adequately secured and consequently could cause an injury to a preschool child if it dislodged from the fixing. 8. The pipework in the sanitary area in the Toddler room was exposed and accessible to a preschool child. 9. Pipework in the outdoor area adjacent to the Toddler room was exposed and accessible to preschool children using the outdoor area. <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. The nappy change facility for the Toddler room was located in the kitchen attached to the Toddler room which is unsuitable for infection control and hygiene purposes.
<p>Response from proposed Registered Provider:</p>	<p>The written response received from the registered provider stated that:</p> <p>(c)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The mechanical ventilation in the bathroom between room 1 and 2 has now been switched on. 2. There is a mechanical ventilation system in the nappy changing room. It only comes on once the light is switched on. 3. Brighter bulbs have been purchased and installed 4. The walls have been plastered and painted. <p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Splashbacks have been placed at wash hand basins. 6. The mechanism will be fixed by January 2021. 7. This has been secured appropriately. 8. This pipework is covered. 9. This pipework is covered. <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. This will room is now only used solely as a nappy changing room.
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>The written response, photographic and video evidence submitted has been reviewed and the requirement for regulation 29 is met.</p>

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
 - (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*
- (5) *A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:

(1) (3)

The service has sufficient space to cater for 59 children attending on a full day care or part time basis based on the available sanitary facilities in the premises.