

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE203
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Name of Service:	Klever Kidz Preschool
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Address of Service:	1 College Farm Green, Newbridge, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W12 DN44
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Name of Registered Provider:	Patrick O'Neill
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	25/04/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	16
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Office Tusla Child and Family Agency Nexus Building, Floor 2, Blanchardstown Corporate Park D15 F9K
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Inspection undertaken by:	G. Fagan, T. Duignan
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

'Klever Kidz Preschool' was established in 2015 as a privately run childcare service for children aged 2 years to 6 years.

The service provides sessional childcare and education to children from 9:00am to 12:00 hours and 12.30 - 15.30hrs, Monday to Friday.

The service is in a secured purpose-built premises attached to but separate from the registered providers home, in a residential area in Newbridge. The outdoor play area is directly accessible from the care room for the children to use daily. Parking and set down facilities are available.

The service consists of a large open plan room with sanitary facilities.

Staffing

Klever Kidz Preschool employs four childcare staff. The manager and two staff members were working in the care room with the children on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. The adults working in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education as per the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15, Record of a preschool 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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.

(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.

Regulation 9(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) was not reviewed as there was no change from the last inspection to the staff employed in the service.

(4) There are four adults who work directly with the children. All adults hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education 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.

(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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were twenty children attending the service being supervised directly by three adults.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the morning.

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

A sample size of eleven written records were assessed.

(1)

(a) The name and date of birth of the child were recorded on all records that were assessed.

(d) The name and address of a parent / guardian and a telephone number for contact was recorded on all records that were assessed.

(i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency was completed in all records that were assessed.

(2) Not applicable as the service is not a drop in or temporary service.

(3)(a)(b)(c) The record in writing was open to inspection on the premises.

(4) The registered provider confirmed that the records were retained in storage for the required period.

(5) Not applicable as the service is not a drop in or temporary service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service was not completed on the eleven records that were assessed.
- (c) The date on which the child ceased the service was not completed on the eleven records that were assessed.
- (e) Authorisation for the collection of the child was not fully completed on three of the eleven records that were assessed.
- (f) Details of illness, disability, allergy or special needs of the child were not fully completed on two of the eleven records that were assessed.
- (g) The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner was not fully completed on four of the eleven records that were assessed.
- (h) The record of immunisations, if any received by the child were not fully completed on eleven of the records that were assessed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1(b)(c)(e)(f)(g)(h) The missing information has been sought from the parents and the application form has been amended to ensure all relevant information is captured. The registered provider will ensure all parts of the application form are completed and no blank places will be left on the form and the child's start and finish date are recorded annually.

Supporting documentation submitted

The registered Provider submitted documentation as evidence that the information required for Regulations 15 (b)(c)(e)(f)(g)(h) was completed.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances and the requirements under regulation 15 has been met.

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)

The children were cared for by the same adults which enabled them to form secure relationships, attachments and develop their confidence within the service.

Children were observed to be engaged, happy, content and relaxed within the care room and in the outdoor area.

The adults ensured the children were supported in all aspects of their physical, emotional and social wellbeing and demonstrated warmth, kindness and respect in their interactions with the children. Children were spoken to using their first name, appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones was used during all interactions.

The service had a healthy eating policy, and the snacks were observed to be healthy. Mealtimes were social experiences and the staff members sat with the children at snack time.

Children were supervised and assisted with hand washing depending on their age and stage of development.

A suitable rest area with soft furnishings was available should a child wish to rest or take a break from activities.

The children were encouraged to take part in activities and afforded opportunities to make choices. All children were provided with outdoor play daily.

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:

Measures were taken to ensure premises were appropriately secured, the front door had a bolted lock and there was a chain lock on the back door thus preventing children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the Early Years service.

The person in charge documented the inspectors' visit to the service in the visitor's book on arrival.

All exits points were unobstructed for the duration of the inspection.

There were roller blinds on the back door and the window blind cords were secured to the wall. All electrical leads were out of reach of children.

Steps were provided in the toileting areas, at the toilets and sinks respectively, allowing children to safely reach the toilet and sink taps independently.

Tall shelving units used for storing toys and equipment were securely bolted to the wall.

The floor covering in the internal play space was non-slip and in good repair.

Storage facilities were available for the children to store their belongings.

Cleaning products were stored out of reach of children in a cupboard above the kitchen.

Infection Control:

There was an infection control policy in place. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Foot pedal operated bins were available for the hygienic disposal of used tissues and waste. The staff members supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established.

Written cleaning schedules were displayed and maintained for the room environment which was observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. Written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with the safe practice when administering medication in the service.

Prescribed medication was available for one child and was kept out of reach of children with the child's name clearly labelled on the box.

Fire Safety:

The staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. The fire exits were not obstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- Two children were observed to have whole grapes in their snack boxes which created a potential risk of choking. The inspector brought the risk to the attention of the person in charge.
- A written risk assessment was not available for the bouncy castle that was used by children during play in the outdoor area.

Infection Control:

- The nappy disposal bin used was not foot pedal operated. This is unsatisfactory from an infection control perspective as it required the staff members to handle the lid which creates a potential risk of contamination and cross infection.

Corrective and Preventative Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- Communication was issued to parents reminding them that whole grapes need to be cut in half when provided in their pre-school snack boxes. A knife is available in the pre-school room should it be required to cut any snacks that present as a choking hazard.
- The bouncy castle has been removed from the pre-school garden.

Infection Control:

- The nappy bin has been removed from the pre-school service and nappies will be disposed of in the outside bin.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Evidence provided of communication sent to parents regarding the requirement to cut grapes for children's snack boxes.

3. Infection Control:

Photo of sanitary facilities showing the nappy bin is no longer there.

Summary Comment

The registered has provided has addressed the non-compliances and the requirements under regulation 23 has been met.

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.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained in each care room.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) (a), (b) The registered provider ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.

(4) The registered provider confirmed that the records were retained in storage for the required period.

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) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the care room.

(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children were available to the children attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) It is acknowledged that the three staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection had CPR and AED certification, however there was no staff member present on the day of inspection trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) Two staff members have completed FAR training since the inspection and the registered provider has identified a training company to provide FAR for future training requirements.

Supporting documentation submitted

An email from the trainer confirming the staff members completed the training and the dates the training occurred.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances and the requirements for regulation 25 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 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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A written record was available of fire drills completed in the service; the last recorded fire drill was 20 April 2023.
 - (b) A maintenance record was kept of the firefighting and smoke alarm system in the premises. The firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system were serviced on 29 November 2022.
 - (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 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2024. The insurance provided cover for 22 children.