

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KK044
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Kinderland Creche & Pre-School
-------------------------	--------------------------------

Address of Service:	1 The Green, Ayrfield, Granges Road, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	R95 C822
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Moira Millea
-------------------------------------	--------------

Service type:	Full Day
----------------------	----------

Date of Inspection:	24/07/2024
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	15
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Athy Road, Carlow.		
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Thornton,	Antoinette McNamara,	
Title:	Early Years Inspector	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

Kinderland Creche and Preschool is a registered full day childcare service which operates from the Ayrfield housing estate, located on the Granges Road, in Kilkenny city. The service caters for children aged 1 to 6 years of age and is open from 08:00 to 18:00 hours Monday to Friday. An early childhood care and education (ECCE) service is provided from 09:00 to 12:00 hours. The service is also registered to provide a school aged service for primary schools located nearby.

The premises is a two-storey detached house containing four classrooms, a designated sleep room, kitchen and an outdoor area is provided onsite at the back of the building.

Staffing

There were eight staff employed in the service including the registered provider and a designated chef/ kitchen staff member. All staff, who as part of their remit in the service, worked directly with the children held a qualification of Level 5 to Level 6 on the national Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) framework.

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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under the following regulations.

Regulation 10 - Policies Procedures etc. of a Pre-School Service,

Regulation 16 - Record in relation to a Pre-School Service,

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play, and

Regulation 23 -Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the wobbler, toddler and ECCE Room 1. ECCE Room 2 was not in operation on the day of inspection.

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, 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 inspector observed that there was a designated person in charge in the service. A named deputy designated person in charge, was also available to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was on the premises throughout the inspection.

(c) A clear management structure was observed in practice and was also clearly displayed in the entrance area, outlining the roles and responsibilities of each staff member employed in the service, for parents and authorised visitors to see.

(2) Staff files for eight staff members were reviewed by the inspector.

(a)(b) Two validated references were available on file for each of the eight staff members, from either a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting certificates were on file for each staff member employed 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 staff member employed in the service had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six months.

(4) Certificates of qualification for each staff member, were available for review by the inspector. The documents provided, demonstrated that all staff working directly with the children, held at least the minimum Level 5 ranging to Level 6 qualification in early childhood care and education, on the National Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The service's policies and procedures as required by Schedule 5 were available in the service and open for inspection.

On review of the documents, the inspector was assured that the written policies were specific to the service and had been effectively communicated to the staff as part of their induction prior to commencement of employment in the service. Evidence was also recorded that demonstrated that an annual review of policies and procedure was carried out by the registered provider, in consultation with staff, and revised by staff.

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) Throughout the inspection, an adequate number of staff members were observed directly caring for and supervising the children in attendance.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children as required by schedule 6 was maintained as follows.

In the Wobbler room there were 4 children, (3 aged 1 to 2 years, 1 aged 2 years and 2 months) directly cared for by 1 staff member, for a full day care service.

In the Toddler room there were 5 children, (4 aged 2 to 2 years and 8 months, 1 aged 3 years and 2 months) being cared for and supervised by 1 staff member, for a full day care service.

In ECCE Room 1, there were 8 preschool children aged 4 to 6 years of age and 5 school aged children cared for and supervised by 2 staff members and in the afternoon, there were 6 preschool children and 5 school aged directly supervised by 2 staff members.

The registered provider was floating in the service providing relief for staff breaks and assistance where required.

The designated kitchen staff member also held a qualification at Level 5 on the national QQI framework and was available to assist if required.

(8) The designated person in charge ensured that there were always at least two staff members on the premises.

The inspector observed that the staff roster and past staff rosters available reflected this.

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (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)(a) to (i) All documents and details referred to under regulation 16(1)(a) to (i) were available in the service and open for inspection. There was evidence that the information was communicated clearly to both parents and staff in the service’s policy and procedure documents and statement of purpose and function that was provided to them.

(j) A sample of five administration of medication forms were reviewed by the inspector and were observed to be completed in detail containing all the specifics of the procedure outlined in the service’s administration of medication policy. This was supported by the detail of knowledge provided by staff in discussion with the inspector in relation to the correct procedure to follow in administration of medication in their practice.

(k) On review of a sample of six records maintained in the service in relation to accidents or incidents that had occurred in the service, the inspector observed that staff had recorded events, actions taken, communication of

events to parents and subsequent risk assessments carried out post accidents or incidents in line with the service's policy on accidents and incidents.

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.

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) On observation of each of the classrooms in operation on the day of inspection, there were clear identifiable areas of interest, appropriate to the different age groups in each classroom, available to the children in attendance at the service.

Well-resourced and maintained themed play areas, such as home/kitchen areas, dress-up areas, rest/ reading areas, construction/ transport/ farm areas, and creativity areas were provided in each of the classrooms inviting and stimulating children to play.

Low-level shelving was stocked with an array of manipulative and connective materials, inviting children to explore and challenging their fine motor and cognitive skills.

(3)(a) A spacious outdoor area ran the side and length of the back of the building and was comprised of three different areas where the children could play. A wooden decked area provided the children opportunities for sand and messy play and an artificial grass covered area contained secure play structures appropriate to the ages of the children in the service to climb, swing and slide on, providing opportunities to develop their gross motor skills

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 to the service was secured with a call bell system. Staff were able to view any parents or visitors to the service through a glass panel, on their approach to the service.

Staff were required to answer the call bell system to permit entry to the service, therefore, children could not exit the service unsupervised and visitors to the service could only enter the premises once authorised by the staff.

The play area at the back of the building was secured by a locked gate at the side of the building and a high cemented block wall.

Records were maintained of daily risk assessments that were carried out prior to children using the outdoor play areas.

Infection Control:

The staff and children in the service were observed to wash their hands after toileting, nappy changing, using tissues for runny noses, after outdoor play or messy play and in preparation for meal or snack time, in line with the service's infection control policy.

Children's toilet and nappy changing needs were supported as required by the staff, in line with toileting and nappy changing policies contained within the service's infection control policy.

The inspector observed that good cleaning procedures were effectively adhered to in the service, with cleaning schedules followed and recorded in each of the classrooms.

Safe Sleep:

A designated sleep room was provided in the service with a total of three standard cots for children aged 1-2 years.

Stackable beds were also available for children over 2 years to avail of, if they wished to sleep during the day.

Suitable bed linen consisting of fitted bed sheets and cellular blankets were provided for individual children.

Staff were observed to implement the service's safe sleep policy in their practice, when putting children down to sleep, carrying out and recording physical checks on each sleeping child's colour, breathing and sleep position every 10 minutes

Outing:

An adequate outings policy was in place in the service; however, the registered provider informed the inspector that outings were currently not operated, away from the service.

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) There were six staff members employed in the service who had current first aid responder (FAR) training. Five staff members with FAR training were present in the service on the day of inspection, as documented in the staff roster.

On review of maintained staff rosters, the registered provider demonstrated that there was always at least one staff member with FAR training onsite, while children attended the service.

(2)(a) A first aid box was clearly observed and safely stored in the reception area of the service .

(b)The first aid box was always available for the children and records were maintained to demonstrate that it was checked monthly to ensure that its contents were adequate and in date.

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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
 - (b) an employee, and
 - (c) an authorised person.
- (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 of monthly fire drills carried out in the service was maintained by the registered provider. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on the 4 June 2024.
- (b) Records of the annual maintenance checks of the service's firefighting equipment and fire alarm system were maintained. The last maintenance check for the firefighting equipment was recorded as having taken place in August 2023 and for fire alarm system was recorded as having taken place on the 7 June 2024.
- (2) All records relating to fire safety in the service were maintained onsite and open for inspection.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the entrance area on the ground floor. A fire assembly point was clearly signed in the outdoor play area.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An insurance certificate displaying adequate insurance for a full day childcare service for up to 45 preschool children was available for inspection.