

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LD023		
Name of Service:	Whizzkids Drumlish Community Childcare CLG		
Address of Service:	58 Mill Race park, Mill Road, Drumlish, Co. Longford		
Eircode:	N39 DK63		
Name of Registered Provider:	Monica O'Haire		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	08/12/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	38	PM 25
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.		
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan and F. Maher		
Titles:	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.		

Description of service

Whizzkids Drumlish Community Childcare CLG is a non-profit based service located in a housing development in the village of Drumlish Co. Longford. The service provides full day care, part-time and sessional care to pre-school children aged 0-6 years and is registered to provide school age care. The service operates from 8:00 am to 18:00hrs, from Monday to Friday.

The early years' service is in a purpose-built two storey premises. The service has four care rooms for the preschool children, two sleep rooms, nappy change and sanitary facilities.

The premises has its own kitchen, where children's meals and snacks are freshly prepared and cooked daily by a cook. There is a staff room, office, and storage areas.

Outdoor play areas for children's play are located at the side and rear of the service.

A car park at the front of the premises is available for drop off and collection of the children attending and for staff members.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. The inspection was facilitated by the designated person in charge.

Seventeen adults are employed in the service including the registered provider, the cook and the cleaner.

Of the fifteen adults present on the day of the inspection, eleven adults were working directly with the children. The person in charge, assistant manager and deputy manager was available to provide additional support when needed. The cook was also present.

All adults working directly with the children had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under.

- Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1), (2), (8)(a) – Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance.
- Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First aid.
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety.
- Regulation 27 – Supervision.
- Regulation 28 – Insurance.

however, on inspection additional non-compliances were identified under:

- Regulation 19(1)(a) – Health, Welfare and Development of 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.

Additional Information

1. A written referral was sent to the Chief Fire Officer in Longford County Council on 5 January 2026.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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

(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

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that two new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. One of the new staff members work directly with the children.

- (2)
- (a), (b) Two validated references were available on file for two staff members from either a past employer or from a reputable source.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all employed staff members. 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 on file required for one recently employed staff members who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six months.

(4) One adult, recently employed to work directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher or a recognised equivalent qualification 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)-

(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 thirty-eight children attending the service being supervised directly by eleven 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 following review of the staff roster for the service.

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-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a) Physical and material environment:

1. The physical and material environment in the Baby room required review to meet the developmental requirements of the age group attending which was 10 months to 2 years.

There were not an adequate quantity and variety of toys and equipment in the room to meet the various age and development stages of the children. There were minimal areas of interest and what was available was inadequately presented.

There were shape sorters, shape sorters, plastic interactive toys, balls, small world animals, chalk, crayons and paper and a small amount of material book available in the room.

A work bench unit did not have the required props for example, plastic hammers, wrenches, work boxes, foam blocks, construction dress up clothes including a work hat to prompt make believe and symbolic play and learning for the older age group in the Baby room.

There were no sensory play opportunities for example sand, water, gloop or shredded paper, and no push pull toys to promote the younger children's gross motor development and/or real-life equipment to encourage children's imaginative play.

Additional equipment such as soft climbing cushions, a mirror and pull to stand bar to assist children pull to stand who are not yet mobile, a crawling tunnel, simple peg board puzzles, stacking toys and shape sorter puzzles, sensory mats, push/pull equipment, treasure baskets with natural and open-ended materials, rattles and musical instruments, would support the children's gross motor development, imagination and curiosity.

Age-appropriate books such as material type books with touch and feel textured pages, small hardback picture books, a selection of lift the flap books, books with peek a boo pages, musical and nursery rhymes, books with hand puppets to support story time interaction with the children would support the children's developing language, social and emotional skills.

A home corner with a kitchen play unit is required and should include props for example, tea sets, pots and pans, dolls, cot/buggies, play hoover to prompt make believe and symbolic play and learning for the older children in the Baby room.

2. The children in the Baby room were observed not to go outdoors for play during the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The Baby room has now various toys and equipment for the ages and stages of development (10 months- 2 years). Staff will ensure that an adequate quantity and variety of toys and equipment is available at all times for the ages and stages of development.
2. Staff will ensure that children play outdoors every day.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Sixteen photographs.
2. Document.

Summary Comment

The written response, documentary and photographic evidence submitted by the manager on behalf of the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for Regulation 19(1)(a).

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 entrance door to the service was secured to allow staff to control entry to and exit from the service. The children did not have access to the kitchen. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

Staff members advised the inspector they would remove any beaded necklace if observed that a child may be wearing them.

They were aware of the potential choking risks that grapes posed when asked by the inspectors.

The service had a system in place to manage maintenance issues.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members were familiar with the importance of handwashing practice as a means to

control the spread of infection in the service. They supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established.

Children's toileting was sensitively managed. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal and containment of used tissues.

Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments which were 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 required practices when administering medication in the service. Medicine was safely stored in the service.

Safe Sleep:

There was one sleep room with a total of five cots. Low level sleep beds were available for all children aged over 2 years requiring sleep in a second designated sleep room. It was observed that 10-minute sleep check observations were completed on all sleeping children, and the staff documented the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children in their care.

Comfortable rest areas were available for the children in each care room if they wished to take a break from activities and rest.

Fire Safety:

Monthly fire drills had been carried out, and staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. The fire exits were not obstructed.

Outing:

The manager confirmed that outings are conducted by the service. There is an outings policy in place to guide practice.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The slide bolt locking mechanism was located on the top outer edge on the inside of the side gate, at the front of the premises leading to the Baby room play area; this was easily accessed and opened from the outside by the inspector and the potential for unauthorised entry was therefore possible. It is acknowledged there were no children in this outdoor play area for the duration of the inspection.
2. There was no documentary evidence available that daily outdoor and indoor room environmental risk assessments were completed to ensure a safe play and work environment for the children and staff. This did

not align to the risk management policy which stated that daily risk assessments of the classrooms, sanitary areas, sleep areas and outdoors should take place.

Infection Control:

3. There was a lack of clarity around the process of cleaning and sterilising of soothers, toys and other equipment in the 'Baby room'. There was no system in place for the immediate removal, cleaning and sterilisation of shared toys. There was no container of sterilisation solution made up and immediately available for staff to use on the day of the inspection.
4. The nappy change practices required to be reviewed as it was observed that the single use disposable apron was not removed following the bagging up of the soiled nappy. Soiled nappies, used aprons and used disposable gloves need to be disposed of at the same time following removal of the old nappy for best infection control practices.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A new high fence has been erected with a blot locking system so that no unauthorised entry is possible at any time. Management and staff do daily checks to ensure that there is no unauthorised entry at any time, and the daily Management Risk assessment is completed daily.
2. A new Indoor and Outdoor risk assessment policy has been developed. Management will do daily check of both indoors and outdoors and this is signed off by Management daily.

Infection Control:

3. The shared toys are put into a container during the day and taken in the evening by a staff member to be sterilised and washed and brought back to the room the following morning.
Each child has a separate container for their soothers, and they are also sterilised and washed by a member of staff when required daily.
4. We discussed with staff and we put a more step by step procedure in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Two photographs.
2. Document.

Infection Control:

3. Two photographs.

4. Document.

Summary Comment

The written response, documentary and photographic evidence submitted by the manager on behalf of the registered provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for Regulation 23.

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 person in charge 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 person in charge ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained. The manager ensured that the inspectors' entry to the service was recorded in the visitor's book.
- (4) The person in charge 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

(1) Staff members present were trained in in first aid response (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)

(a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position on the ground and first floors.

(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children were 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 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 took place on 24 November 2025.

(b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm were last serviced 14 April 2025 and August 2025 respectively.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the entrance hallways.

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

The children were observed being supervised at all times throughout the inspection by the adults caring for them both indoors in their care rooms, using the sanitary area, when using the stairs and during transitions and in the outdoor areas.

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 2026. The insurance provided cover for 70 children.