

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015LK006

Name of Service ACM Kidz

Address of Service: 14/15 Castle Street, Castleconnell, Co Limerick, V94 CW29

Email Address: childcare@castleconnell.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Josephine O Donovan

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	√	Part-Time	√	Sessional	√
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Change in Number of Children that can be Accommodated from 37 to 59,
Additional room added to accommodate 6 Preschool Children for Sessional service
Additional room added to accommodate 18 Preschool Children for Full Day Care service.
Increase in number of preschool children (Full Day Care) from 12 to 34

Proposed Number of Children: 59

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in Number of Children that can be Accommodated from 37 to 59,
Increase in number of preschool children (Full Day Care) from 12 to 34

Registered change: Change in number of children from 37 to 59(max 34 full day/part-time) children

Date of Inspection: 1 5 0 8 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: M Riordan

Title: EYI

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate, 2nd Floor, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

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

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service for 59(Max 34 Full Day/Part-Time)
Date of Registration	5th September 2025

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	ACM Kidz is a community childcare service based in Castleconnell, Co. Limerick. It provides sessional, part-time, and full-day care, as well as after-school services for children attending local primary schools.
Premises	The service is housed in a purpose-built facility within a single-story terraced house in the village centre. It features two well-equipped childcare rooms on the ground floor, which open directly onto a spacious outdoor play area and garden at the side and rear of the building. A new third room has been added to the ground floor to accommodate an extra 6 preschool children for an additional sessional service. A new preschool room to accommodate Toddlers has been added to the first floor of the building.
Staffing	The registered provider is the secretary of the management committee in the ACM community centre. A designated person in charge is appointed to overlook the daily operation of the service.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced 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 regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, 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 taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.
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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 following requirements have been met.

(1)(a) The registered provider has appointed a designated person in charge of the service along with a named person to deputise if 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.

Requirement met:

The following requirement has been met.

(1) The registered provider has proposed to have 10 staff members employed to work at the service and this was evidenced with a proposed staffing roster for each individual room in the service.

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.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

- (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 following requirement has been met.

(1)(a) Adequate and suitable facilities are provided for children to play indoors and outdoors. The preschool rooms are bright and spacious and well laid out with adequate amount and variety of equipment and play materials on open, low level shelving units.

(1)(b) The service purchased low level beds which children can use for resting each day if tired. A designated quiet time will be facilitated each day after dinner.

(3)(a) The service has its own outdoor play areas to the rear and the side of the premises. The area is fully enclosed and is equipped with a wide range of play materials. The service has a variety of surfaces such as an all-weather rubber matting area covering the ground in areas beneath all climbing equipment, a cement yard for the ride on bikes and toys, and a grassy area for play opportunities exclusive to the outdoor area.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.

Requirement met:

The following requirement has been met.

A healthy eating policy is in place. A kitchen is available in the service with facilities for storing perishable foods and for the preparation of hot meals. A full day menu plan is available with options listed for breakfast, dinner, lunch and snacks listed. The service will provide a breakfast to children who arrive early. The parents will provide a healthy snack for the mid-morning break. A hot meal will be provided by a designated catering company and served to the children who will attend for part time or full-time care.

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 following requirements have been met.

The gated entrance to the premises appeared adequately secure to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.

An infection control policy is in place to inform practice. The policy and the associated procedures detailed all measures to reduce the likelihood of infection spreading in the facility.

Cleaning programmes are in place to ensure a good standard of operational hygiene is in place.

Foot pedal operated lidded bins are provided in all areas of the service to ensure the safe disposal of all waste.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

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.

Requirement met:

The following requirement has been met.

- (1) Certifications were available to evidence that the staff trained in first aid response for children were rostered for duty at all times in the service.
- (2) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available in the service and stored in a conspicuous and easily accessible location in the premises.

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.

Requirement met:

The following requirement has been met.

- (1)(a) Fire drills take place once a month. Written documentation was available to support this practice.
- (b) There was a record available to indicate the number, type and maintenance of the fire extinguishers in the service. Firefighting equipment were serviced last in September 2024.

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The following requirement was met.
Evidence that the service is adequately insured for the increase in the number of children proposed to attend was submitted to the registration office.

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 following requirements has been met.

(a) The premises appeared to be of sound and stable structure.

(b) The entrance gate to the service appeared appropriately safe and secure. The outdoor area appeared secure to prevent a child exiting the area unsupervised.

(c) The service was adequately lit with lots of natural light available in all areas. Adequate ventilation was in place through openable windows in all the preschool rooms of the premises.

(d) All rooms in the service have been repainted during the summer holidays. Maintenance works and repair works have been carried out in all indoor and outdoor spaces at the service.

(e) Within the building there are 5 toilets and 5 wash handbasins available to the preschool children attending the preschool rooms. There are 2 nappy changing facilities located in the building, one on the ground floor and the second on the first floor.

There are adequate facilities available for the staff working at the service.

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:

The following requirement was met.

- (1) An area of 16.65 square metres in the new Sessional preschool room was available. This is above the required space needed to accommodate the proposed 6 preschool children for a sessional service.
- An area of 50.33 square metres in the new Toddler preschool room was available. This meets the required space needed to accommodate the proposed maximum of 18 preschool children for full day care service.
- An area of 36.75 square metres in the Junior Preschool room was available. This meets the required space needed to accommodate the proposed maximum of 16 preschool children for part time and full time care in the afternoon.
- An area of 39.91 square metres in the Senior Preschool room was available. This meets the required space needed to accommodate the proposed maximum of 15 preschool children in the morning for a sessional service
- (2) There is adequate floor space to accommodate children to attend both a sessional, part time, and full-day care service.