

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK051		
Name of Service:	Clever Kidz		
Address of Service:	Altavilla, Askeaton, Co. Limerick		
Eircode:	V94 VF1P		
Name of Registered Provider:	Josephine Moloney		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	19/09/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	6	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Offices Estuary House 2 nd Floor, Henry Street, Limerick.		
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan		
Title:	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

Clever Kidz Pre-School is a privately owned sessional pre-school service located close to the town of Askeaton in County Limerick. The service was opened in September 2000. It operates from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, Monday to Friday. At present there are 6 pre-school children on the register to attend the school. The service operates from a well-resourced playroom adjacent to the registered provider's home.

Bathroom facilities are located next to the pre-school room. An outdoor play area is available to the rear and side of the house.

Staffing

The registered provider owns and manages the service. A relief staff is available if required. Both staff members hold a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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*

(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 registered provider was the designated person in charge available on the day of the inspection. A person to call on in the event of an emergency was also available.

(b) The registered provider was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)(a) There were written references, from past employers, available in respect of all adults who have access to the children.

(b) Where past employer references were not provided, references from reputable sources were supplied.

(c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available in respect of the registered provider and the person who could be called on in the event of an emergency.

(d) Not applicable to this service as neither the registered provider nor the person available in the event of an emergency had lived outside the jurisdiction.

(4) The registered provider held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-
- (c) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service 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.

Compliance Information

- (1) The service operates a morning session from 9.30am to 12.30pm. On the day of the inspection there were 6 pre-school children present with the registered provider. The adult child ratio was compliant with the requirements of Regulation 11.
- (3) At all times the registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in the service.
- (8)(c) The registered provider ensures that a second person was always available close to the school to call on, in the event of an emergency.

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

(1) A sample of 6 children’s records were viewed. The registered provider had a record in writing containing the following particulars for each of these children.

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child.
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service.
- (c) provision made to record 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 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, received by the child.

(i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

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

Compliance Information

Basic Needs

A healthy eating policy was implemented at the service, ensuring the provision of nutritious snacks to children daily. Parents provided food for a mid-morning snack, and all perishable foods were stored in a refrigerator each day until required at the service. Childrens drinks were removed from their bags on arrival and stored on a low shelf where they were always easily accessible.

Toilet facilities were located close to the preschool room. Handwashing facilities with warm water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were accessible next to the bathroom A foot pedal-operated lidded bins were available for safe disposal of paper handtowels.

Lots of low-level soft furnishings were accessible in the relaxation area of the room, allowing children the opportunity to rest each day if required. A well-equipped outdoor area facilitated lots of outdoor play. All weather matting covered the outdoor space making it accessible in all weather conditions.

Physical and Material Environment

The preschool room was well designed to meet the individual needs of all children in the space. Lots of low-level tables and chairs provided opportunities for tabletop activities and for dining at snack time. Age-appropriate educational posters and children's artwork were exhibited on all walls and low-level windows in the room. Tuff trays with sensory materials and open-ended play items were available. A home corner and a selection of dress up play materials facilitated lots of imaginary play. Room layout and designs were rearranged depending on each child's evolving interests and their stage of development.

Outdoor play areas were directly accessible from the preschool room. The playground was fully enclosed and safely surrounded by timber fencing. Rubber matting covered all outdoor surfaces, thereby reducing the risk of injury while children played outside. Lots of ride on bikes, trikes and scooters helped promote gross motor skills. A large garden at the rear of the playground was accessible for ball games.

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) The registered provider held a first aid responder certificate. The course was in date up to 2027.

(2)(a) A well-equipped first aid box was stored in an easily accessible location within the preschool room.

(b) The first aid box was available to children attending at all times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The insurance certificate for the service was available and in date on inspection.

The service was insured to accommodate 7 children at any one time. The certificate was due to expire on the 21st of January 2026.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (a) The building appeared to be of sound and stable structure both internally and externally and no obvious defects were noted on inspection.
- (b) The premises appeared safe and secured. The front gate to the school was securely closed. The outdoor area was well secured preventing any unauthorised access to or exit from this area of the service.
- (c) All areas were well lit by natural light and by artificial light when needed. There was no evidence of mould, mildew, stale smells, stuffiness or condensation.
- (d) The areas outside were all well maintained and routine cleaning schedules were in place for all internal and external areas. A high standard of operational hygiene was noted in the premises.
- (e) There were an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins available at the service.