

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK090			
Name of Service:	Kiddies Corner Preschool			
Address of Service:	Community Centre, Main Street, Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick			
Eircode:	V94 XCV5			
Name of Registered Provider:	Elizabeth Kenny			
Service type:	Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	19/10/2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	9	PM	4
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2nd Floor Estuary House, 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
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Description of service

Kiddies Corner is a private pre-school sessional service operating from the local Community Hall in the village of Pallaskenry, in County Limerick. It offers two sessions each day, Monday to Thursday, a morning session from 9.00am to 12.00pm and an afternoon session from 12.15pm to 3.15pm. A morning session only operates on a Friday. The service operates from a designated room within the local Community Centre. Children have access to the pre-school room and to the main hall for physical play activities. Sanitary facilities are located next door to the pre-school room.

Staffing

The registered provider is the designated person in charge of running the pre-school. There was a student from a local college also present on the day of the inspection. The designated person in charge has a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 8.

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, the student 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) On the day of the inspection the registered provider was the designated person in charge. A second person to call on in the event of an emergency was also available within close proximity.

(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 the registered provider and her assistant in an emergency.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, references from an alternative source were provided.

(c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available in respect of the register provider, the student and the emergency person.

(d) Not applicable to this service as none of the staff had lived outside the jurisdiction.

(4) The registered provider held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 8.

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) The service operates a morning sessional service from 9am to 12 midday. There were 9 preschool children with 1 adult and 1 student attending the morning session. There was 4 preschool children and 1 adult present for the afternoon session. This met 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.

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) Each child's enrolment form was reviewed. The service had a record in writing containing the following particulars for each of the children.

(a) The name and date of birth of the child.

(b) The date on which the child first attended the service.

(c) Provision 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. Information also on each child's likes and dislikes around foods, toys and activities was noted on the registration forms.

(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 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) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and each staff working at the facility. This was clearly displayed on the wall of the premises.
- (b) Details of the type of service in operation and the age profile of children for which the facility 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. This was clearly displayed on the wall of the preschool near the entrance for parents to read.
- (e) The facilities available.

- (f) The opening hours and fees.
- (g) A record in writing was maintained of policies and procedures required in accordance with Regulation 10 and were found to be comprehensive and detailed.
- (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child daily.
- (i) Staff rosters were maintained on a daily basis and available for inspection. These correlated with the numbers that were present on the day of inspection.
- (j) The service had a medication administration record template available that could be used in the event of a child requiring medication to be administered at the service.
- (k) Details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending 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

Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS:

A healthy eating policy was available at the service and children brought a healthy snack each day with them to the preschool. Nutritious snacks of sandwiches, cheese strings, crackers, carrot batons and fruit slices were observed in the children's lunches. Drinking water was always accessible to the children and within easy reach of them throughout the session.

All children were toilet trained and were independently using the bathroom facilities next to the preschool room. Tissues and wipes were always accessible to the children and all waste was disposed of properly in foot pedal operated, lidded bins. Handwashing was available at a sink in the preschool room where adults could supervise children washing and drying their hands.

A rest area was noted in the library corner. Soft floor mats and cushions were available next to a book stand and children were observed sitting in a circle, enjoying story time with the student at the service. Children had access to an outdoor play area in the local playground across the road from the Community Centre.

Children also had unrestricted access to the main hall where open space to run, play ball games and use ride on toys was available.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The playroom was a purposely designed room with a good range of play equipment to encourage children’s learning in all areas of their development. Play materials and equipment was stored on low level shelving, clearly visible in picture labelled baskets to encourage children to access and return resources of their choice. Low level tables and chairs were used to dine at lunch time and to carry out many tabletop activities throughout the session. Lots of age-appropriate posters were on display on all walls at children’s eye level. Picture prompts to teach children simple rules like “take turns”, “no fighting”, “cover your mouth when coughing and sneezing” were visible. Each child had a poster with their photograph and information all about themselves displayed along the wall. A play kitchen, household utensils and a dolls house were used for imaginative play. Art and craft materials with paints, paint brushes and paper were available and lots of Halloween decorations made by the children were on display in the room. The main hall provided a spacious area for more physically active and challenging games. Trikes, scooters and balance bikes were used in this area to encourage gross motor development for all children. Trips to the local playground were organised on a regular basis and risk assessments were carried out to ensure the children’s safety when visiting the local amenities.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a current insurance certificate which outlined that adequate insurance was available for 11 preschool children to attend the service. The insurance cover commenced on the 28th of March 2023 and is due to expired on the 27th of March 2024.