

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK090
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kiddies Corner Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Community Centre, Main Street, Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 XCV5
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Elizabeth Kenny
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	26/11/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	10	PM	7
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Offices, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Marie Riordan
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Kiddies Corner is a private pre-school sessional service operating from a designated room within the local community centre in the village of Pallaskenry, in County Limerick. It offers two sessional services each day, a morning session from 9.00am to 12.00md and an afternoon session from 12.15pm to 3.15pm. 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. A second staff is available to assist at busy period if required. 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 and safety 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, 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*

*(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 staff to call on in the event of an emergency was available at all times within close proximity.

(b) The registered provider was present in the service for the duration of the inspection. A second staff assisted at changeover time when the morning sessional service was finishing and prior to the afternoon session commencing

(2)(a) There were written references from past employers available in respect of both the registered provider and the second staff member.

(b) All four references were from previous employers.

(c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available in respect of both the registered provider and the second staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable to this service as neither 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.*

*(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 sessional service from 9.00am to 12.00pm. There were 10 preschool children with 1 adult in attendance for the morning session. There were 7 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.
- (8)(c) The registered provider ensured a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance was, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to assist 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

#### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

The service placed a strong emphasis on fostering and maintaining positive relationships between staff at the service and the children. Consistency was a priority, with the same adult present with the children each day, providing stability and familiarity and supporting children's emotional security.

Throughout the inspection, the registered provider was actively engaged in children's play, assisting them and praising their efforts, demonstrating at all times a positive responsive and inclusive approach.

Collaboration and communication with parents were integral to the service's approach. Newsletters were shared with parents on a regular basis outlining the themes and curriculum plans in place at the preschool. Information and photographs were shared electronically with parents on a regular basis. A second staff member assisted at collection time and arrival time. This allowed the registered provider time with parents during both drop-off and collection to discuss their child's day. During all of these exchanges, staff and parents shared valuable knowledge

and observations concerning the child's interests, strengths, developmental progress, care needs, learning styles, and any changes or relevant events in the child's life. This ongoing dialogue ensured that the child's experiences both at home and at the service were connected and supported.

### 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:

- On arrival to the service all external doors were locked and safely secured.
- Cleaning agents and cleaning equipment used in the service was safely stored well out of children's reach.
- The service ensured that complete and accurate daily records of attendance were kept for all children and adults present in the service.
- Fire doors leading from the preschool were clear and unobstructed.

##### Infection Control:

- A cleaning programme was available to ensure a high standard of hygiene was maintained in all areas of the preschool.
- The preschool room, the hall and the sanitary areas all had openable windows which ensured adequate ventilation when required.

##### Outing:

- Trips to the local playground took place on a regular basis. Extra staff assisted with these outings. A risk assessment was carried out prior to the trips to ensure the area was safe and free of hazards.

## 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 had completed a first aid responder training course. The certificate were in date up to March 2026.

(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 the service at all times.

## 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) Records were available to show that fire drills were carried out monthly. The most recent fire drill took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2025.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises with the most recent service having been completed in May 2025.