

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK091
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kiddies Klub
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Monaleen Road, Castletroy, Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 XHR0
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sinead Kerley
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	27/01/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM	No.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J Ryan
<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

This private sessional service was established in the year 2000. It operates a morning session from 09:00hrs – 12:00hrs from Monday – Friday for 38 weeks of the year.

The service offers a play-based curriculum. It is purpose built and operating in an urban setting where the children have access to two pre-school rooms, a sanitary accommodation area and facilities for outside play.

### Staffing

The registered provider and one other adult work in the service each day. The registered provider holds a major award in early childhood care and education at level 8 and the second adult present holds a level 6 qualification on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations.

Regulation 9 1(a)(b) 2(a)(b)(c)(d) 4

Regulation 10

Regulation 11 (1)

Regulation 19 1(a)

Regulation 24 1 2 (a)(b)

Regulation 25 1 2 (a)(b)

Regulation 26 1 (a)(b) 4

Regulation 28

Regulation 29

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, second staff member 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 on the day of the inspection and there was a named person present who was able to deputise if required.

(b) The staff roster indicated that both staff attended the service every day from time of opening to time of closure.

(2)(a) Two written references were available for both staff working at the service.

(b) References were from previous employers or from sources other than past employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for both staff working at the preschool. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had worked longer than six consecutive months outside the jurisdiction.

(4) Both staff held an appropriate qualification in early childhood care and education.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

The required policies and procedures for the operation of the sessional service were available in the service in printed format. They contained the required information to guide staff in relation to the safe care of the children attending the service.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of the inspection there were 15 pre-school children under the supervision of the registered provider and 1 additional staff member. In Room 1 there was 8 preschool children and 1 adult and in Room 2 there was 7 preschool children and 1 adult. The adult/child ratio was correct in the facility.

### 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:**

The services objective was to ensure that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. A healthy eating policy was available at the service and children brought a healthy snack each day with them to the preschool. Fruit, sandwiches, yogurts and crackers were observed in the children's lunch boxes at break time. Childrens drinks were readily accessible to them.

Children who were toilet trained used the bathroom facilities independently which were directly adjacent to each room. Hygienic nappy changing facilities were available if required. Hand washing by children took place at the wash hand basin in the sanitary accommodation which helped prevent cross infection.

Comfortable inviting rest areas were available in both rooms of the service which children were observed to use when they choose to opt out of an activity and play or read alone.

Children had daily access to an outdoor play area at the rear of the premises. Opportunities to run, climb, crawl and balance were available in this space. Weather permitting children spend as much time as possible outdoors each day.

Staff were observed interacting well with the children, using soft tones of voice, using the child's name and getting down to their level and making eye contact.

### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

The physical and material environment of the service was planned and organised to ensure each child's learning was facilitated. Both rooms had many interest areas well developed which included a construction area, a home corner equipped with a play kitchen, dolls and prams, an imagination play area with dolls houses, a relaxation reading corner with soft furnishings located next to a book stand, an art/craft area with lots of paper and painting materials.

Children had access to a variety of materials and equipment which were rotated to suit the changing abilities and interests of the children and the changing curriculum plans throughout the year.

The outdoor area offered the children space for physical play, for movement and for exploration.

## 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.*

*(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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) Staff ensured that each pre-school child attending the service was checked in and out of the service as evidenced on the roll book.
- (3) Staff ensured that-
- (a) No person other than the following were allowed entry to the premises without approval.
    - (i) A Pre-school child attending the service.
    - (ii) A person dropping or collecting such a child.
    - (iii) An employee.
    - (iv) An unpaid worker.
  - (b) A daily record in writing was kept of all adults who entered the premises.

### 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 current certification in first aid response for children.
- (2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box safely stored and easily accessible in the service.
- (b) The first aid box was available at all times if required for a child.

### 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.

### Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The fire drills were practiced monthly. The last recorded fire drill took place in December 2025.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was serviced in October 2025 and a record was maintained of the number, type, and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms which were serviced in October 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was available for the service and had an expiry date of 27/03/2026.

### 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

The premises was

- (a) of sound and stable structure,
- (b) safe and secure where the entrance door and exit door at the rear of the facility were locked.
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. There was thermostatically controlled hot water available at the wash hand basin, liquid soap and paper hand towels.