

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LS052
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Name of Service:	Kuddz Kidz Playschool
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Address of Service:	Camross Village, Camross, Co. Laois
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Eircode:	R32 YD39
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Name of Registered Provider:	Martina Ryan
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	06/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	49	PM	15
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Inspection undertaken by:	K. Murphy
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).

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Description of service

The service is registered as a full day care service. The age range of children that can be enrolled in the service is 2 to 6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). The service operates between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. The service is operated by an independent provider as part of a multiple.

The Early Years' Service is located in a single storey purpose-built premises. Three pre-school rooms, a kitchen and an office are provided. A staff room is located in a standalone facility to the rear of the premises. Separate outdoor play areas are attached to the front, rear and side of the premises. Onsite parking and set down facilities are available. The service is rural in its location in the village of Camross, County Laois.

Staffing

The registered provider employs a person in charge, seven childcare practitioners and a staff member for school aged childcare. All were present and working with children on 6 May 2026.

The registered provider who provides a support role within the service arrived after the inspection had commenced, remained on site and attended the closing meeting.

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

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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:

- Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1)(a)(b) (2) (4)
- Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2) (8)(a)
- Regulation 19 Health Welfare and Development of Child (1)(a)
- Regulation 20 Facilities for Rest and Play
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child
- Regulation 24 Checking In and Out and Record of Attendance (3)(a)(b) (4)
- Regulation 25 First Aid
- Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures (1)(a)(b) (4)
- Regulation 28 Insurance

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, person in charge, staff and children who were 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,*
- (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.*

(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 person in charge and a named person to deputise were available as required.

(b)

The person in charge was present for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider arrived after the inspection had commenced, remained on site and attended the closing meeting.

Following a review of previous inspection findings, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that two new childcare practitioners and one new school aged childcare staff members had commenced in the service since the last inspection on the 22 August 2024.

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The staff files were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers or from a source other than a past employer in respect of the three new staff members.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the three new staff members.

The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. An in date garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of the registered provider, the person in charge and four childcare practitioners which required renewal since the last inspection on the 22 August 2024.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no new staff member had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

The two new staff members working directly with children held a major award at level 5 and 6 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

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(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times

Compliance Information

- (1)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was in place during the inspection.
- (2)
There were forty-nine children attending the service supervised directly by eight adults in the morning. There were fifteen children attending the service supervised directly by six adults in the afternoon.
- (8)(a)
The staff roster indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

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*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a)
The children were supported to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development. Adults were observed to be positive towards children evidenced by individual names used, eye contact and praise for children on completion of activities. The children were encouraged to be independent and their choices were supported. Staff were observed to offer praise to each child for their involvement in activities.
- A regular schedule of snacks and meals was provided to the children during the inspection. The main meal was served in the afternoon and consisted of a Shepards pie containing mince meat, vegetables and mashed potato. Milk and water to drink were available.
- Nappy changes were carried out at regular scheduled intervals and on an individual need's basis.
- A range of developmentally appropriate experiences and materials were available for all children both indoors and outdoors. In the pre-school rooms low level tables and chairs were in place. Low-level shelving with equipment and materials were accessible to the children. Artwork and seasonally themed decorations were

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noted. All children were observed to enjoy free play, choosing their own activity to participate in and playing in the outdoor play areas supervised by staff.

A verbal handover was observed to parents at collection time. The service worked in partnership with parents and uses a closed social media group to share information with parents regarding the general activities during the day.

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.

(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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Adequate and suitable indoor and outdoor facilities were provided on the premises.

(b)

Soft furnishings provided suitable relaxation facilities in the pre-school rooms. Low level beds were in place for children over the age of two who required rest or sleep during the day.

(3)(a)

A perimeter fence secured the outdoor play areas. The surface of the play areas consisted of bark, cement and natural grass. Sheltered areas were available to the children and equipped with low level table and chairs, wall mounted chalk boards, covered sensory play trays, and toy kitchens. A variety of bikes and trikes were available.

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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:

The main entrance door was secure to ensure the safety of the children within. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

Cleaning schedules were available and reviewed. The toys and materials were easily cleanable. Warm running water, liquid soap and hand towel dispensers were available in the sanitary accommodation and nappy changing areas. The nappy changing practice observed was carried out as per the service procedure. Openable windows for natural ventilation or mechanical ventilation were provided in the sanitary accommodation. Foot operated pedal bins for the hygienic disposal of waste were provided in the pre-school rooms and associated sanitary accommodation.

Administration of Medication:

No medication was administered during the inspection. Temperature reducing medication was available in a secure location in the service if a child presented with a high temperature.

Fire Safety:

The emergency exit routes were unobstructed from the premises. A fire assembly point was noted to the front of the service.

Outing:

The person in charge stated that outings were not carried out from the service.

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.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)

The children's arrival and departure times were recorded by a staff member.

(3)(a)

All entry to the service with the exception of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) must be approved by a staff member.

(b)

A visitor log was in place to record the details and purpose of all visitors to the service.

(4)

The visitor log is retained throughout the annual operation of the service.

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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)
Five staff members were qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) and were rostered to be available on the premises during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)
First aid boxes were identifiable and readily available in the service.

(b)
A first aid box was accessible to the adults caring for the children in the pre-school service.

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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 firefighting 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)

Written records for completed fire drills were available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on 30 April 2026.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment in the premises were serviced in August 2025. The smoke alarms in the premises were serviced in March 2026.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in conspicuous positions throughout the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children attending the service. The expiry date noted was 27 March 2027.