

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LS074
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Name of Service:	Classy Kidz
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Address of Service:	6A Rahinwood, Rahinwood, Ballylinan, Co. Laois
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Eircode:	R14 DN82
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Name of Registered Provider:	Bernadette Fanning
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	21/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	NA
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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 R35K1W4
Inspection undertaken by:	R Flynn
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

Classy Kidz is a private sessional service providing care and education to preschool children aged between two and six years old. The preschool operates on the ground floor of a purpose-built premises in a residential area. The service is located in the rural town of Rahinwood, Ballylinan, in Co. Laois. An enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the preschool. The service is registered to operate a morning and afternoon session however, currently operates a morning session only, from 09:00 – 12:00pm Monday to Friday. The service consists of one large preschool room, a kitchen, office and a small break out room. The outdoor play area is accessed via the back of the preschool. Car parking and set down facilities were available at the front of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider employs four staff in the service. There were three adults present on the day of the inspection including the registered provider and two childcare staff. The registered provider works directly with the preschool children and facilitated the inspection on 21 January.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations

- Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(c), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) – Management and Recruitment
- Regulation 11(1)(3) – Staffing Levels

- Regulation 19(1)(a) Health, Welfare and Development of Child
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child
- Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First Aid
- Regulation 26(1) (a) (b), (4) – Fire Safety Measures
- 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, 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)

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b)

The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider, it was determined that two new staff members had commenced in the service since the last inspection on the 05 June 2024. The two new staff files were reviewed.

- (c)
Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. In regard to the five staff members, the service demonstrated compliance with 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 lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4)
Five employed childcare staff members working directly with the pre-school children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(9)(2)(a)(b)

Two written validated references were not available in respect of one staff member.
Two written references from a previous employer were not validated in respect of one staff member employed in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

References have been obtained for one staff member who did not have any on file, and have been validated.
Two references which were not validated have been validated by the registered provider.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of validated references received.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 have been addressed.

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)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the preschool children on the day of inspection.

(3)

The ratio of adults to children was maintained on the day of the inspection.

There were fourteen children aged between 3 years and 2 months – 5 years being supervised directly by three adults.

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

(1) (a) Basic Needs of child

Children brought in a packed lunch provided by their parents. Lunches brought in from home were observed to contain a variety of sandwiches, soda bread, bread sticks, crackers and fresh fruit. Children's drink bottles were readily available in their lunch bags. The children sat together at low level tables while eating and engaging in conversations with each other. Staff sat and ate their lunch with the children and engaged in conversation with the children during snack time.

Self-toileting was supported, and children were supervised as necessary.

Supporting Relationships

Staff members were observed to be respectful towards the children in their care. Children were spoken to using their first names and appropriate eye contact was made. A family wall displayed photographs of children with their families, helping the children to feel connected to home. A 'Today's Helper' chart identified who was the helper of the day, where each child had the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and responsibility. Staff did a roll call where each child's name was called, and the children responded 'An Seo'. Children names were also placed on a chart on the wall to identify who was present.

The registered provider advised the inspector that information and updates regarding the service are provided to parents at drop off and collection times. Additional updates are shared via an electronic messaging application or email.

Physical and material environment

Toys and play equipment were positioned at an accessible level on open shelving which nurtured independence, facilitated choice, and encouraged spontaneous play. Children's language development was supported through one to one and group discussions, songs and storytelling which were observed on the day of inspection. A range of books were available in the preschool room.

Children were observed engaged in tabletop activities such as cutting out pictures for an arts and crafts activity, beads and boards, and playing with small world farm animals. A staff member was at each table engaging with the children and talking about what the children were creating.

An outdoor play area was provided at the back of the preschool and had a range of play equipment for the preschool children such as ride on vehicles, scooters, balance bikes and diggers. A basketball hoop and swing set allowed for energetic play. Part of the outdoor area was covered with a plastic corrugated roof, which provided for the continuation of outdoor play in inclement weather.

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 entrance door to the preschool was secured and controlled by staff to prevent children exiting the premises unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access. The entrance door had a keypad entry system and a bell to alert staff to visitors and parents. An internal electronic release button was positioned up high at the entrance door out of reach of children to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. Cleaning products were stored in in the kitchen, out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

Liquid soap and warm water were available for hand washing. The children were supported to wash their hands before snack time and after using the bathroom. Pedal bins were available in the sanitary accommodation and the preschool room for the hygienic disposal of waste. Mechanical ventilation was in place in the sanitary accommodation. The preschool room had openable windows for ventilation.

Administration of Medication:

No medication was administered on the day of inspection. Staff were familiar with the procedure of administration of medication if required by a child. An individual and emergency care plan was in place for one child who required specific medication in the event of a medical emergency.

Fire Safety:

Fire exit signs were positioned above doorways in the service. Fire exits in the premises were easily recognisable and unobstructed. A fire assembly point was located at the front of the building.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A child was observed to have whole grapes for their lunch presenting a potential choking hazard.
2. The side gate in the outdoor play area was observed unlocked throughout the inspection. The hook and eye lock on the outside of the side gate was not secured for the duration of the inspection. Children were observed in the outdoor play area playing at the gate out of sight of the two staff members in the outdoor

area. A slide bolt on the inside of the gate was within children's reach. If children opened the side gate, they could exit the front of the service gate which was open throughout the inspection.

Infection Control:

3. The paper hand towel dispensers in the sanitary accommodation were not stocked. Children were observed to use a communal hand towel after washing their hands. This presented a risk of cross contamination.

Outing:

4. The registered provider advised that the children are taken on outings to the park for nature walks and to places in the community such as the Garda Station. However, documented risk assessments relating to outings that had previously occurred were not available to support the practice and ensure the safety of the children. This was at variance to the outings policy which stated that a risk assessment is undertaken before each outing.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The registered provider cut the grapes on the day of inspection and sent a reminder text message to the parents regarding cutting small fruit.
2. The registered provider moved the lock on the side entrance gate up high out of reach of children. The gate is locked until collection time. A sign saying 'please close the gate', was put on the front gate to encourage parents to close the gate during drop off and collection times.

Infection Control:

3. The hand towel dispensers have been refilled, and extra stock placed in the storage room.

Outing:

4. Before any future outings, staff will read the service risk assessment and follow the points to create a safe outing for the children to experience. Regular meetings with staff members to occur to update all policies and consider changes.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photograph received of repositioned lock on side gate and sign on entrance gate.

Infection Control:

Photograph of stocked paper hand towel dispenser received.

Outing:

Copy of services updated policy and risk assessment received.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed.

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)

One staff member was qualified in First Aid response (FAR) and was available on the premises during the operational hours of the service on 21 January 2026.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was located in the kitchen of the service.

(b)

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

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) (b)

Records were available demonstrating the annual maintenance of the smoke alarms on the premises. The smoke alarms were serviced 07 January 2026.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire were positioned throughout the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) (a)

A written record for fire drills undertaken was available on the premises. No fire drill was conducted during the month of December. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on 14 November 2025. Monthly fire drills must be conducted.

(b)

Firefighting equipment was not serviced on an annual basis. Records indicated that the last maintenance check was 29 August 2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) (a)

A fire drill was conducted on the 26 January 2026. Monthly fire drills will be put into the diary and carried out regularly.

(b)

The firefighting equipment was serviced on 23 January 2026.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of fire drill log received.

Copy of fire equipment maintenance record received.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 26 have been addressed.

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 22 children attending the service and the expiry date noted was 27 March 2026.