

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH094
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Name of Service:	Kids Klubs Childcare Limited
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Address of Service:	Archdeaconry View, Kells, Co. Meath
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Eircode:	A82 A782
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Name of Registered Provider:	Kim Doyle
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/01/2024
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Date of Inspection:	24/01/2024
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No of pre-school children: Day 1	AM	44	PM	28
Day 2	AM	46	PM	27

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
Inspection undertaken by:	D. Murray
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

Kids Klubs Childcare Ltd was established in 2008 and is a privately owned childcare facility. The service provides full day care, part-time and sessional care to children from 0 to 6 years, along with a school aged service. The service also participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE).

The service is purpose-built and consists of 3 care rooms, cot room, office, kitchen, sanitary facilities and an outdoor space.

The rooms in the service were as follows:

The Red Room facilitates the care of children from 2.6 years to 3.6 years.

The Yellow Room provides education and care to children from 2 years 8 months to school going age.

The Blue Room also provides education and care to children from 2 years 8 months to school going age.

Two additional activity rooms were available for small group work, one off the Yellow room and the second room off the main corridor.

Staffing

The registered provider employed a manager, 8 childcare staff and 2 household staff members.

23/01/24 Present on the day of inspection was the manager, 7 childcare staff and 1 household staff .

24/01/24 Present on the day of inspection was the registered provider, manager, 7 childcare staff , 1 student and 1 household staff .

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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, manager, staff and children who were present on the days of 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Compliance Information

23/01/24 and 24/01/24

- (1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(c) A clear management structure was displayed in the entrance hallway in the service.

(2) (a)&(b) Twelve staff files were reviewed along with a student who was studying the Early Childhood Care and Education course. Twenty six validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for the 12 staff members and the student.

(d) Police vetting was available for 4 staff members who had resided outside the jurisdictions for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) All 10 childcare staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

(6A) Two staff members were employed under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

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)—

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)

23/01/24

There were 7 adults working directly with the 44 children attending the service. The manager was available to provide assistance to the care rooms as needed.

24/01/23

There were 7 adults and 1 student working directly with the 46 children attending the service. The registered provider and manager were available to provide assistance to the care rooms as needed.

(2)

23/01/24

The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection. The rooms were as follows:

- **Red room** had 2 staff members with 7 children ranging in age between 2.6 to 3 6 years all attending the service on a full day care basis.
- **Yellow room** had 2 staff members with 18 children ranging in age from 2.8 years to school aged,9 of which were attending on a full day care basis with 9 attending the sessional service.
- **Blue room** had 3 staff members with 19 children ranging in age from 2.8 years to school aged,12 attending the full day care basis,1 attending on a part-time basis and 6 attending the sessional service.

24/01/23

The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection. The rooms were as follows:

- **Red room** had 1 staff member and a student with 5 children ranging in age between 2.6 to 3 6 years all attending the service on a full day care basis.
- **Yellow room** had 3 staff members with 21 children ranging in age from 2.8 years to school aged,9 of which were attending on a full day care basis,9 attending the sessional service along with 3 children transitioning from the Red room.
- **Blue room** had 3 staff members with 20 children ranging in age from 2.8 years to school aged,13 attending the full day care basis,2 attending on a part-time basis and 5 attending the sessional service.

23/01/23 and 24/01/24

(8) (a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present 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, and

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic needs:

- All children individual needs were met with additional care, attention and supervision given as required. Children rotated between their care rooms, activity rooms and the outdoor space during the day.
- Staff members were observed changing children's nappies regularly and in a timely manner with warm one-to-one interactions during direct care. Older children were encouraged to become independent and self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development which included using the toilet, hand washing, caring for their belongings and tidying away after activities and play.
- Children were observed enjoying meaningful, sustained play with tabletop activities, art and crafts and free playing with lots of conversation and laughter observed. Staff supported children's learning with activities that were observed to be fun and creative. In all care rooms the theme of the month was "Healthy Habits" with the children having tastings of different fruit and vegetables. Childrens art work was also displayed to reflect this theme.
- The staff members sat and chatted with the children at mealtimes, helping the children when required whilst encouraging conversation and extending interactions.
- The service embraces outdoor play and learning. Children were observed enjoying imaginative, energetic play with both their peers and staff members.
- Transitions were handled smoothly with children being given ample time to complete one activity before starting the next.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The staff spoke to all children in a positive way and listened attentively to each child. They used welcoming facial expressions and gentle vocal tones.
- The service showed a positive regard towards the families of the children and family links were nurtured in the service with family photographs displayed on “The Family Wall” in the care rooms which gave a sense of identity and belonging. Children and parents were greeted at drop off and collection with friendly conversation overheard. Overall, the children appeared comfortable, happy and relaxed in their environment.

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-

(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)(b) Cosy areas consisting of mats and cushions were available in the care rooms if a child needed to take a break from activities and rest. Stackable beds were available for children over 2 years which were placed in the Activity room off the hallway.

(3)(a) The outdoor space was divided into 3 areas with an all-weather surface. These areas were separated with wooden fences and enclosed by walls. A partially sheltered area permitted outdoor play in all types of weather which all rooms have access to.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- Play materials and play equipment in all care rooms were visible and easily accessible to the children on open shelving at their height which supported children to have choices in selecting materials and equipment to play with. Tables and chairs in each room were appropriate to the age and stage of development of pre-school children attending the specific care rooms. The care rooms were well resourced and had areas of interest with supporting equipment which incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts and a range of suitable toys.
- Play equipment in the outdoor spaces included:
 - Red room had a small slide, wooden car, wooden hut, 2 cars and rockers.
 - Yellow room had a climbing frame, wooden playhouse, basketball stand, sand tray, wooden bench and a storage shed.
 - Blue room had a partially sheltered area, mud kitchen, tent, construction table, water/sand table, building blocks, wooden climbing ramp, balancing planks and a slide.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The parents provide all the food for their children attending the service. Additional light snacks were available in the service if required. Water was the drink of choice. The main meal of the day was heated by the household staff member and brought to the care rooms.

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 following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- The main door to the service was secured and the outdoor space was enclosed and had two secure gates. These security measures ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor space.
- An indoor and outdoor risk assessment was conducted on a daily basis.
- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- All furniture and display units had a stable base with no risk of toppling identified.

Infection Control:

The following infection control measures were observed:

- The hand washing policy and nappy changing policy were implemented in practice with appropriate hand washing for staff and children at all times. Warm running water was available in the children's sanitary area, along with a supply of liquid soap and hand paper towel for effective hand washing.
- The service was clean with cleaning schedules maintained on a daily basis.
- Pedal bins were available for general waste throughout the service.

Safe Sleep:

Safe sleep practices were observed in the service as demonstrated by the following examples:

- Temperature of the activity room used for sleep was 18.9⁰ C before the children went to sleep. A thermometer was available to monitor the air temperature.
- A sleep log recording the position, colour and breathing pattern was recorded at 10 minutes intervals on all sleeping children.

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 service provided evidence that a person had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 09/01/2024.
- (b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The fighting equipment was last serviced on the 03/08/2023. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 04/02/2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for 55 children at any one time attending for full day care. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28/03/2023 to the 27/3/2024.