

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances



Tusla I.D.: TU2015RN009

Name of Service Country Kids Childcare LTD

Address of Service: Oran, Donamon, Co Roscommon, F42 EW26

Email Address: maryjucuddy09@gmail.com

Name of Registered Provider: Mary J Cuddy

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: Change of number of children from 75 to 105

Proposed Number of Children: 105 Children

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Approve change of number of children from 75 to 105.

Registered change: Change in number of children from 75 to 105 children

Date of Inspection: 1 3 0 8 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: A. Kennedy

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon.

Rationale for Inspection:
Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional Service from 105 Children
Date of Registration	20th August 2025

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	<p>This private crèche and pre-school are located in the rural area of Oran, just off the Roscommon Castlereagh Road. The service offers full day care and part time care provision from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs, for children aged between 0 to 6 years of age. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care and a sessional programme is also provided from Monday to Friday, for 38 weeks of the year. Additionally, the service operates an after-school programme between 13.45hrs and 18.00hrs, for school-aged children.</p>
Premises	<p>There are six playrooms namely the Baby room, Wobbler room, and Toddler room on the ground floor and Pre-school room 1A, Pre-school room 1B on the first floor.</p> <p>The premises has been extended to provide an additional ground floor room namely the senior preschool room.</p> <p>There is a kitchen / dining room, utility room, staff room, office, and storage rooms. There are designated outdoor play areas to the rear of the premises for children’s fresh air and exploration.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider works on the premises daily. There is a named person in charge and a deputy person in charge. There are a total of twenty staff currently working in the service. Eighteen of the staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education. There are two chefs designated to work solely in the service kitchen, preparing, and cooking the daily meals. It is proposed that an additional staff member will be recruited by the end of August.</p>
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p>

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	The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.
Acknowledgements	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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise as required.

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..

Requirement met:

The requirement was met.

(1) It is proposed that there will be two staff working directly with pre-school children aged 4-5 years with a ratio of one adult to eleven children attending the service on a sessional basis. The registered provider advised that the children remaining in the service for full day care would be cared for in preschool room 1a on the first floor in the afternoon with a ratio of one adult to eight children.

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,

Requirement met:

(1)(a) The design, organization, and resourcing of the indoor and outdoor environments will be able to support each child’s wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service.

The playroom was designed and arranged to

- maintain a space that was clean, organized, and free of clutter,
- divided into areas that were supplied with materials organized in a way to support proposed children’s play, development, and learning,
- give all proposed children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development.
- The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and thereby readily accessible to the proposed pre-school children.
- The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, and designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.
- There were opportunities for imaginary play with dress up clothing, role play, construction and kitchen and home areas.
- There were messy materials to include water and sand play and playdough. There was a selection of transport vehicles, a wooden train track, building blocks of various sizes and construction materials.
- Creative play with art and craft materials, paper, paint, glue, glitter, pencils, crayons, stencils, and recycled materials.
- Language and literacy play with visual aids, books, and matching and counting games, The registered provider advised that toys, materials, and equipment would be rotated on a seasonal theme basis.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The registered provider advised that toys, materials, and equipment would be rotated on a seasonal theme basis. <p>The outdoor environment provided children with activities and opportunities for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fresh air, discovery, relaxing (e.g., quiet seating areas, and an all-weather sand area), releasing energy (e.g., playing chase), physical exercise and play (e.g., jumping, riding on bicycles and push cars), exploring, engaging, and experimenting with nature (e.g., at water play, gardening / planting opportunities, exploring for bugs and insects),, opportunities to enable the children to challenge their own capabilities within safe limits (e.g. climbing the activity centres and playing on the rockers and see saws). <p>(1)(b) A rest quiet area was provided in the form of a soft seating couche; and poofs to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose too.</p>
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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.

Requirement met:

The service had a healthy eating policy, and a three-week menu was displayed in the reception area.

It is proposed that parents and guardians provide food for their child’s snack time.

The staff would ensure that each snack will have two food groups.

The children availing of the full day care service would have the hot meal provided by the service.

A drinks table is available in the playroom and in the outdoor areas during play to allow the children the opportunity to ‘self-serve’ their drinks.

Perishables items from children’s lunch boxes will be stored in designated fridge in the kitchen.

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.

Requirement met:

General Safety

- The designated entrance was secure to prevent unauthorized entry and prevent unsupervised children leaving the pre-school.
- The sluice/storage area and the staff sanitary accommodation adjacent to the playroom were secure and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- The external play areas were secure so that children could not leave the areas unsupervised and unauthorized persons could not enter the area.
- The fire door was unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were secured to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- The playroom temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing without risk of scalding the children, was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- The seven openable windows were high and therefore inaccessible to a child.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There were no pits or ponds in the designated outdoor area to cause any risk of danger to the proposed pre-school children.
- The service had a risk assessment system for checking that toys and equipment were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.
- The registered provider clearly identified to the early year’s inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.

Infection Control

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and a roll towel dispenser.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. • A refrigerator was provided in the kitchen for the storage of perishable foods. • The playroom was observed to be kept adequately ventilated whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels. • There was a cleaning schedule and cleaning records for the materials, equipment, and furnishings. • Waste is disposed of in the sanitary areas and playroom in foot pedalled lidded bins and thereby inaccessible to the pre-school children. <p>Administration of Medication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The registered provider demonstrated clear knowledge of safe practices regarding the administration of medication. <p>Fire Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All exit routes from the service were free from obstruction during the inspection.
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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There are four staff working in the pre-school service who have a current first aid responder qualification.

(2)(a)(b)

There were two first aid boxes available and stored in an easily accessible conspicuous position, with content items within date.

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.

Requirement met:	<p>(1)(a) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills.</p> <p>(b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the service was on file.</p> <p>Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated 12th of February 2025</p> <p>Records indicated that the last annual maintenance certificate for the smoke and fire detection system was dated 24th of April 2025.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the playroom.</p>
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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>An insurance certificate was submitted to the registration office prior to the inspection.</p> <p>The services had an insurance certificate with a commencement date of 28th of March 2025 with an expiry date of 27th of March 2026 for a full-day care service for 110 children and included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public liability insurance, • insurance against fire and theft, • buildings insurance, • insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision
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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.

Requirement met:

The requirements have been met.

(a) From a visual inspection the indoor playroom was of sound and stable structure and there were no observable indications of defects.

(b) The playroom and the outdoor play areas were safe and secure. The main entrance door to the premises has a securing mechanism in place with a keypad access security system. The entrance door to the playroom has a high positioned securing device to prevent children from leaving the playroom unnoticed.

(c) There was natural lighting in the playroom from seven high openable windows on the outer walls. There was a window in the children’s sanitary area.

The playroom was well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors.

The pre-school service was adequately lit with natural light provided from the seven windows in addition to artificial lights on the playroom ceiling. The tube light fittings in the playroom and the light fittings in the sanitary area had protective covers in place.

The radiators were connected to an oil heating system that was thermostatically controlled to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C for the playroom.

On the day of inspection, the room temperature was maintained at between 18 and 22°C.

The playroom and sanitary area radiators had adjustable heating control mechanisms.

The warm water in the sanitary areas was maintained at a safe temperature of 36.6°C

(d) In the proposed indoor playroom, the play and work equipment were clean and in good repair.

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	<p>Cleaning equipment was safely stored and inaccessible to the pre-school children.</p> <p>From observation, the furnished playroom was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.</p> <p>There was evidence that there was a professional rodent proofing service.</p> <p>(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were provided.</p> <p>There were three designated children’s toilets with two designated children’s wash hand basins provided in the new extension to accommodate the children attending the service.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.
- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.
- (4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—
 - (a) a sessional pre-school service, and
 - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

Requirement met:

- (1) Adequate floor space was provided for the free movement of children to work and play.

Room	Size sq metres	Proposed max number of children	Age range	Clear floor space	Service type
Baby room	21 square metres	6	0-1 years	3.5 sqm	Full day care
Wobbler room	43 square metres	15	1-2 years	2.8 sqm	Full day care
Toddler room	65.46 square metres	28	2.3 years	2.35 sqm	Full day care

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	Preschool room 1(a)	55 square metres	23	3-4 years	2.3 sqm	Full day care
	Preschool room 1(b)	28.5 square metres	11	3-5 years	2.3 sqm	Full day care
	Final year preschool new room	66.7square metres	22	4-5 years	1.818 sqms	Sessional care

(2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children.

(4) The measurement of the proposed new playroom floor space was 66.7 square meters, thus, ensuring a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the service.