

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD033
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Name of Service:	Keen Kidz
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Address of Service:	McGinn Park, Ballygunner GAA complex, Ballygunner, Waterford, Co. Waterford
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Eircode:	X91 R863
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marion O'Sullivan
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	22/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	6
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
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

This part time service is located outside Waterford city. A parttime service is provided to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 1.30pm. A school age service is also provided. The service is operated from a GAA complex. The service has the sole use of two preschool rooms, toilets and a kitchenette. The children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area, an indoor Astro turf enclosure and access to the grounds and pitches surrounding the building.

Staffing

There are 10 staff employed in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. All staff held the minimum of level 5 and above in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

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 management and recruitment,
- Regulation 10 policies and procedures,

Regulation 11 staffing levels,
Regulation 15 Record of pre-school child,
Regulation 17 Information for parents,
Regulation 21 Information for parents,
Regulation 23 safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,
Regulation 25 first aid,
Regulation 26 Fire Safety,
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)(b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. There was also a person available to deputise if required.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 10 staff employed in the service.

All required written and validated references were available on file for all staff working in the service.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.

(d)

Police vetting was available on file for two staff members who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There were qualifications on file for all staff working directly with preschool children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

(7)

The registered provider had ensured that all employees were supervised and provided with appropriate information. Staff who spoke to the inspector were clear in their understanding of the policies and procedures in place in the service. There was an induction policy in place for new staff. There was evidence that new staff were given all required training prior to starting work in the service. There was a check list of information given to new staff on the required policies procedures and ethos of the service.

There was evidence of regular staff meetings where staff were given the opportunity to share any areas for improvement they had identified in the service. There was evidence of regular 1-to-1 meetings between the manager and staff to discuss their progress and development working in the service.

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

There were written policies, procedures and statements, as specified in Schedule 5 available for the service. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the policy on healthy eating and the behaviour management in the service. These policies and procedures were complete and specific to 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.

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)

There was at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service during the inspection.

(2)

At 10.30am

Buttercups

There were 12 children aged 3 to 6 years, who were directly cared for by 4 staff.

Bluebells

There were 7 children aged 3 to 6 years, who were directly cared for by 3 staff.

At 1.00pm

There were 6 children aged 3 to 6 years in the care of 2 staff.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*

- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

There was a registration form available in respect of each child enrolled in the service. A sample of 8 forms completed by the parents were reviewed as part of the inspection process and were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

The parents of children were given an information booklet when they had accepted a place in the service. The inspector reviewed the information given to them. The service provided parents with information as required under regulation 17. The information provided for parents contained an outline of the curriculum, the hours of operation, contact details and the facilities available within the service. There was also information included on funding schemes available for parents to apply for. There was also a mobile phone application in place in the service which provided parents with additional information if required.

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

The equipment and materials provided both in the preschool rooms and were presented and maintained to provide for the play and learning needs of the children attending the service.

Children in the bluebells room were observed enjoying free play on the morning of inspection. There was a supply of arts and crafts materials in the room for all the children to use. There was a selection of approximately 15 outfits for children to dress up in and explore their imaginations. There was a home corner with a supply of miniature equipment. There were dolls, prams and clothes to dress the baby dolls. There was an extensive collection of picture books and story books for the staff to read to the children and the children to look at the pictures.

There was original artwork displayed showing collages the children had made using coloured paper to stick to templates of dresses staff had provided for them. There were also self portraits the children had made displayed on the wall. There was a height chart on the wall where staff had measured the children and themselves.

There was a long sink at the children's level where they could enjoy water play in the room.

The buttercup room had a selection of toys, bricks and Montessori equipment displayed on low level shelves which were easily accessible to the children. Of note was a supply of natural world products for the children to play with. For example, there were stones, twigs and cones from trees freely available in the room. The children's photographs and birthdays were displayed on a tree like a mobile suspended from the wall made of twigs.

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)
There was a person trained in first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service. There was evidence that there were four staff trained in a first aid responder course available to the children attending the service, which was sufficient to cover across the rota in the service.
- (2)(a)(b)
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position for the staff on the premises and was available to the children at all times.

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)
There was a record of fire drills which had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was carried out in December 2025.
- (1)(b)
There was a record available to demonstrate the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment in the service. This maintenance was last carried out in August 2025. The smoke alarm was last service in June 2025.
- (4)
There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of 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 adequate insurance in place to cover the number of children the service who were present on the day of inspection.