

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD034
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Name of Service:	Kiddies Kingdom
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Address of Service:	Mathews Cross, Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford
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Eircode:	X91 WD63
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Name of Registered Provider:	Bridget Whelan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Dates of Inspection Day 1:	25/04/2024
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Day 2:	26/04/2024
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No of pre-school children Day 1:	AM	163	PM	146
Day 2:		164		NA

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Waterford Local Health Office, Cork Road, Waterford
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Inspection undertaken by:	M. Ryan. C. Ryan.
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

Kiddies Kingdom is located approximately one kilometer from Kilmeaden village in east county Waterford. The service is nine kilometers from Waterford city. Kiddies Kingdom is a full day care service with part time and pre-school places, the age range catered for in the service is 6 months to 6 years of age. The service operates from 2 separate buildings with a total of 12 childcare rooms, 4 sleep rooms, a catering kitchen, and kitchenette. There are nappy changing and sanitary areas adjacent to each of the childcare rooms. Additionally, there are storage rooms for toys and equipment, a separate room for chemicals and cleaning agents and a laundry room. There are five play gardens located in the outdoor grounds of the premises. The opening hours are from 07:30 to 18:00 hours, Monday to Friday. The service is registered for a total capacity of 206 pre-schools children at any one time. Kiddies Kingdom also offers a school age programme and a pickup service from the local primary schools.

Staffing

The service is a family-owned and managed full day care service. The service has 56 childcare staff available to work directly with the children. There are a further six support staff employed for the kitchen, maintenance and office administration.

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, food and drink, and safety and welfare of the children. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and Recruitment,
Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,
Regulation 22 Food and drink,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid and
Regulation 26 Fire Safety.
Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements.

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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 26 April 2024 regarding non-compliances identified under regulation 23 storage of medication. The registered provider submitted a response to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate on the 29 April to demonstrate the actions taken to correct the non-compliances.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, 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)

On the day of the inspection the manager was the designated person in charge of the service.

The staff files for 48 staff working directly with children were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff members file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were maintained on file for staff who had worked or lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months and non-compliances found on inspection 24 and 25 October 2023 had been addressed.

(4)

Certificates of qualifications for all staff members working directly with the preschool children were available on file.

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)
On day 1 of inspection, there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the pre-schools children. During the morning, there were 163 children in the care of 37 staff members. During the afternoon there were 146 children in the care of 34 staff members.

On day 2 of the inspection there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the pre-schools children. During the morning, there were 164 children in the care of 38 staff members.

The service consisted of 12 care rooms.

Day One during the morning:

- **Baby room one:** There were 6 babies in the care of 2 staff. (4 aged between 0 and 1 years and 2 aged between 1 and 2 years).

- **Baby room two:** There were 11 children in the care of 4 staff. (1 aged between 0 and 1 years and 10 aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Wobbler room one:** There were 10 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Wobbler room two:** There were 8 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Toddler room one:** There were 18 children in the care of 4 staff. (1 aged between 2 and 3 years.)
- **Toddler room two:** There were 15 children in the care of 4 staff. (1 aged between 2 and 3 years and 15 aged between 3 and 4 years).
- **Pre-Montessori room one:** There were 18 children in the care of 3 staff. (all aged between 3 and 5 years).
- **Pre-Montessori room two:** There were 17 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 3 and 4 years).
- **Pre-Montessori three:** There were 15 children in the care of 2 staff. (All aged between 3 years and 5 years).
- **Montessori room one:** There were 13 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).
- **Montessori room two:** There were 16 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 4 and 5 years).
- **Montessori room three:** There were 15 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).

Day one during the afternoon:

- **Baby room one:** There were 5 babies in the care of 2 staff. (3 aged between 0 and 1 years and 2 aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Baby room two:** There were 11 babies in the care of 4 staff. (1 aged between 0 and 1 years and 10 aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Wobbler room one:** There were 11 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Wobbler room two:** There were 10 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Toddler room one:** There were 19 children in the care of 4 staff. (7 aged between 1 and 2 years and 7 aged between 2 and 3 years).
- **Toddler room two:** There were 16 children in the care of 4 staff. (1 aged between 2 and 3 years and 15 aged between 3 and 4).
- **Pre-Montessori room one:** There were 19 children in the care of 4 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).
- **Pre-Montessori room two:** There were 17 children in the care of 4 staff. (All aged between 3 and 4 years).
- **Pre-Montessori three:** There were no pre-school children present.

- **Montessori room one:** There were 13 children in the care of 2 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).
- **Montessori room two:** There were 16 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 4 and 5 years).
- **Montessori room three:** There were 9 children in the care of 2 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).

Day Two during the morning:

- **Baby room one:** There were 6 babies in the care of 2 staff. (2 aged between 0 and 1 years and 4 aged between 1 to 2 years).
- **Baby room two:** There were 10 babies in the care of 4 staff. (4 aged between 0 and 1 years and 6 aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Wobbler room one:** There were 9 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Wobbler room two:** There were 9 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Toddler room one:** There were 15 children in the care of 4 staff. (All aged between 2 and 3 years).
- **Toddler room two:** There were 16 children in the care of 4 staff. (All aged between 2 and 4 years).
- **Pre-Montessori room one:** There were 18 children in the care of 4 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).
- **Pre-Montessori room two:** There were 17 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 3 and 4 years).
- **Pre-Montessori three:** There were 15 children in the care of 2 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).
- **Montessori room one:** There were 18 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).
- **Montessori room two:** There were 16 children in the care of 2 staff. (All aged between 4 and 5 years).
- **Montessori room three:** There were 15 children in the care of 3 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).

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 service had a healthy eating policy, which was available to parents. A chef was employed by the service who cooked a dinner daily for the children. A 2-weekly menu was displayed in all the rooms and entrance halls for parents and staff to see. On the first day of inspection children had chicken risotto for dinner and on the second day children had spaghetti bolognese. Any child arriving to the premises before 9am was provided with breakfast which consisted of cereals.

The children brought packed lunches from home to eat at the mid-morning snack time. Perishable foods were stored in the fridges in the playroom. In the afternoon children in the baby rooms, wobblers rooms and toddler rooms were provided with a warm snack by the service. On the first day of the inspection this consisted of pasta, with grated cheese offered to the children.

Children in the pre-Montessori and Montessori rooms ate snacks that were provided by parents. Food provided by parents consisted of a variety of snacks/food included sandwiches, yogurts, crackers, fruit and vegetables. Most of the children drank water from their individual bottles, which they were available to freely access in the rooms. Formula bottles supplied by parents came in made up and were stored in the fridge in line with safe food practice.

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 to the service was secured to ensure unauthorised persons did not enter and children could not leave the premises unsupervised.

Visitors to the service were required to sign in and out of the visitor's logbook.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Storage arrangements for large amounts of antifebrile medication in the service were not suitable. This medication was stored at a low level in fridges in each childcare room. Three of these fridges had no locking devices therefore, medication was accessible to the children in these rooms.

Infection Control:

The systems in place for allocation and rotation of sleeping facilities and bed linen in the toddler and wobbler rooms were not clearly evident on the days of inspection.

1. The labelling of children's cots/ stackable beds to define the allocation of these was not available.
2. Bed linen and blankets were observed to be stored communally between uses.

Therefore, on allocation there was a risk of a mix up and cross contamination between each child's sleeping facility and bed linen.

Administration of Medication:

Consent forms and administration of medication records were not in line with the services policy on safe administration of medication. Consent forms were not available to staff in all the rooms, and staff were not aware of the requirement to ensure two staff sign the medication record.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 26 April 2024 regarding non-compliances identified under regulation 23 storage of medication. The registered provider submitted a response to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate on the 29 April to demonstrate the actions taken to correct the non-compliances. The registered provider submitted photographic evidence to support their response.

The registered provider stated in the C.A.P.A response on 17 May 2023, that all antifebrile medication had been removed from all fridges in the child care rooms throughout the service. The registered provider confirmed that going forward all antifebrile medication will be stored in high locked presses, or a locked box high up on a shelf out of children's reach. A monthly checklist will also be in place to ensure all medication is in date.

Infection Control:

The registered provider stated in the C.A.P.A response on 17 May 2023 that all bed linen was stored separately in individual baskets for each child. All cots and beds were now individually labelled. The registered provider confirmed that all cots and beds were labelled with each child's name and all children had an individual basket for bed linen.

Administration of Medication:

The registered provider stated in the C.A.P.A response on 17 May 2023 that consent forms were now available in all childcare rooms. The registered provider confirmed that staff training had taken place since the inspection to ensure that all staff were aware of the Medication Policy and have full understanding of what it entails, as well as the importance of having an administrator and a witness. The registered provider further stated that Medication Checklist signs were displayed in all child care rooms, for staff guidance in the administration of medication.

Supporting documentation submitted:

The following evidence was submitted on the 17 May 2024:

1. Photographic evidence of samples of the locked boxes purchased for the storage antifebrile medication.
2. Photographic evidence of labelled stackable beds used for the children.
3. Photographic evidence of individual storage baskets for each child's bed linen and labelled for identification.

4. Photographic evidence of a sample Medication Checklist sign displayed.
5. Printed copies of the medical consent form and a sample of new medical record sheet being used in the service.

Summary Comment

All evidence submitted on 17 May 2024 was appropriate to address the non-compliances and the implementation of these actions will be reviewed on the next inspection. Therefore, the requirements under Regulation 23 for the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 have been met.

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)
Certification was available which confirmed that 15 staff in the service had current First Aid Responder FAR training who worked in different parts of the two buildings, the manager ensured that at least eight persons trained in first aid were always available during the operational hours of the service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

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)

Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service. The last recorded fire drill was carried out on the 18 April 2024.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm were serviced in March and April 2024.

(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 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.

Compliance Information

Toddler 2 room measured 63.71 square meters and Pre Montessori room 1 measured 68.20 square meters.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) While there was sufficient floor space available to the children in Toddler two room and in Pre Montessori room one, it was partitioned off in both rooms and halved by large timber gates which compromised the freely available space to the children. The gates divided the space in the rooms while the children were cared for in one half of each room at different times throughout the day. It is acknowledged that this was rectified on the first day of the inspection as both gates were removed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated in the C.A.P.A response on 17 May 2023 that large timber gates were removed from Toddler two room and Pre Montessori room one in order to allow for children to have access to all parts of the rooms. The registered provider confirmed that these gates would not be erected again.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted on 17 May 2023, to verify that these gates that compromised the freely available space to the children were now permanently removed from Toddler two room and Pre Montessori room one.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted on 17 May 2024 was appropriate to address the non-compliance Regulation 30 (1) minimum space requirements. The implementation of this action will be reviewed on the next inspection.