

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015WW117

Name of Service: Kids Aloud

Address of Service: 16 Parkmore, Baltinglass, Co Wicklow

Eircode: W91 RY20

Name of Registered Provider: Liam MacGabhann

Service type: Part Time, Sessional

Date of Inspection: 24/02/2026

No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Tusla Child and Family Agency
First Floor Trinity Building
IDA Business Park
Southern Cross Road
Bray
Co Wicklow

Inspection undertaken by: H. Bourke

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 N/A

Description of service

This pre-school is a community based, non-profit sessional/part time service. The service is registered to provide care and education for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age.

The service operates from two pre-school rooms located on the ground floor of an adapted two storey house in Baltinglass Co Wicklow. The Senior ECCE room is located to the front of the service and the Junior ECCE room is located to the back. A secure outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises and parking is available on site.

The service also operates a breakfast club and after school care for school aged children. The hours of operation currently are from 9.00am to 12 midday Monday to Friday, as there are no children availing of the part time hours offered by the service. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

The registered provider is the current chairperson of the Board of Management and does not work directly with the children. Six staff members are employed in the service on a full-time basis and one adult is available as relief 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/ 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 wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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*
- (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,

Compliance Information

Following a discussion with the person in charge and reviewing the staff roster, it was confirmed that a total of six adults are employed in the pre-school service. One adult is available on a relief basis; these files were reviewed.

(1)(a)

On the day of inspection, the person in charge was present and a named person was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The person in charge was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

The management structure within the service was clear as were the responsibilities of each employee.

(2)(a)(b)

Written validated references were available in respect of seven adults.

(c)

The required three year completed Garda Vetting Disclosures were available for seven adults employed.

(d)
There was international police vetting available for 2 adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than 6 months since turning 18 years of age.

(4)
Seven adults held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

(6A)
One adult was employed pursuant to 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.

Compliance Information

(1)
The person in charge ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

(2)
The correct adult/child ratio was maintained throughout the inspection. There were 6 adults employed and present with 18 children.

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

A total of 10 child registration forms were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(1)(a)-(i)

The person in charge ensured that a record in writing of the above list of particulars, were kept in respect of each child attending the pre-school service.

(3)(c)

The person in charge ensured that these records were available for inspection by an authorised person.

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 main door to the pre-school service was securely locked on arrival of the inspector to the service.
- All toys examined were in good condition and equipment was suitable, age appropriate and in good working order.
- All cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- There were emergency exit routes in both pre-school rooms and both were free from obstruction and clearly marked.
- The fire assembly point was clearly visible in the service car park.

Infection Control:

- There was sanitary accommodation located in the Junior ECCE room and adjacent to the Senior ECCE room. There was warm running water at 43°C, liquid soap and paper towels available in both areas.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available in the sanitary areas and in the pre-school rooms for the safe disposal of used paper towels and other waste matter.
- Table cleaning and floor sweeping were observed after snack time.
- Hand washing by the adults and children was observed, after using the toilet facilities and returning from the outdoor area.
- A cleaning schedule was present and maintained for both pre-school rooms and for the service.

Safe Sleep:

- While no children slept during the inspection, low level beds and suitable cosy areas were available should any child require rest during their day.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)

The person in charge ensured that all children attending the pre-school were checked in and out on the service register.

(3)(a),(i-iv)

The person in charge ensured that no other person other than the agreed list of people had access to the pre-school.

(b)

The person in charge had a record in writing in the form of a visitors' book of all such persons who accessed the pre-school.

(4)

The person in charge was able to demonstrate that the visitors' book was kept for a period of one year from the dates to which it related.

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)

Three adults were trained in FAR (First Aid Response) and were available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a)

A well-equipped first aid box was easily accessible and in a conspicuous position in each pre-school room.

(b)

The first aid boxes are always available to the children attending the 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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-

(c) an authorised person.

(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 having taken place in the pre-school service. The last recorded fire drill was 11 February 2026.

(b)

There was a maintenance record for firefighting equipment and smoke detectors on the premises dated 12 September 2025 and 16 June 2025 respectively.

(2)(c)

The above records referred to in paragraph (1) were open to inspection by an authorised person.

(4)

There was a notice of what procedures should be followed in the event of an emergency, displayed in both pre-school rooms.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The person in charge was able to demonstrate that the children attending the service were adequately supervised during their day.