

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX063
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Name of Service:	Kilmuckridge Kids Creche and Montessori
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Address of Service:	Tinteskin, Kilmuckridge, Gorey, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y25 PF79
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sorcha Lyons
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	13/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	11
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan
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

Kilmuckridge Kids Creche and Montessori is a registered preschool service. The service offers a play based and Montessori curriculum to children 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates from a bungalow and consists of three playrooms, sanitary accommodation, a kitchen and an office. An outdoor garden play area is available to the rear of the property, which the children have direct access to from the playrooms.

Staffing

The registered provider is the designated person in charge and works directly with the children in the service. There are four staff employed in the service. The staff working directly with the children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at the minimum Level 6 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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.

Regulation 9(1)(2)(4) – Management and Recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(2) – Staffing Levels,

Regulation 19 - Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of the Child,

Regulation 25 – First Aid,

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety and

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 of the service on the inspector's arrival. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

The files for all staff working in the service were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for each of the employees kept in each staff member's file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were available on file for staff who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

There were certificates of qualification for all staff members working directly with the preschool children 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)(2)

During the inspection, there were an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.

During the morning there were 4 staff caring for 29 children.

During the afternoon there were 3 staff caring for 11 children.

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

The following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service on the day of inspection:

1(a)

The children were outside on the inspector's arrival and were engaged in a variety of games and activities. Some of the children had made a volcano as part of their science experiments and enjoyed telling the inspector how they made it.

The children returned indoors for their mid-morning snacks and were helped by staff to wash their hands before eating.

Most children had their snacks in their playrooms, and a small number of children enjoyed their snacks in the kitchen. Parents supplied the food and snacks for their children, and these were stored in fridges.

The snack time was relaxed and unrushed. The staff sat at the tables with the children chatting and talking about the plans for their Christmas play.

Children enjoyed story time after snack and the children chose the book they wanted read. Staff interactions with children were respectful, kind and positive throughout with the staff observed checking in with the children at points during the day. Simple rules were discussed in circle time with the children to reinforce positive behaviours such as taking turns and respect for our friends.

During the morning, staff engaged with children in small groups or individually, engaged in play, in conversation with and listening attentively to the children as they spoke. The staff spoke some Irish words with the children during the day.

Parents spoke to staff during drop off and collection times, providing an opportunity for staff to share information with parents. An information board was displayed in the entrance hall with relevant information for parents.

The service consisted of three playrooms, all with easy access to the outdoor play area. The rooms were equipped with a wide variety of play materials, which were suitable for the age and stage of development of the children.

Open shelving had boxes of materials such as puzzles and jigsaws which allowed children to access materials

independently during free play. Each of the rooms were individually resourced and designed to meet the needs and interests of the age group using them. There were home corners, writing areas, books, dress up clothes, nature tables, construction toys, small world and seating area.

Children's identity and belonging was fostered through the display of their works of art and their recent learning, birthday walls, family photographs and labelled hooks for their coats and bags. The children enjoyed showing the inspector pictures of their families and artwork displayed in the room.

Regular nappy changing took place as needed throughout the day and children who were toilet trained were encouraged to use the toilet independently.

The outdoor area was spacious with a variety of areas including a concreted area for ride on toys, gravel pathways, covered areas, a play shed and large lawn. The children had access to ride on toys, mud kitchens, sandpits, digging and planting areas.

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 a first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service. There was evidence on file that two staff working directly with children were trained in a first aid responder course.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid boxes stored in an easily accessible position on the premises which were available to the children attending the preschool 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 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)

Fire drills were completed monthly. The last fire drill completed was recorded on the 01 October 2025.

(b)

A record was maintained when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in September 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

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance for a full day care service for 39 children.