

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016CC002
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Name of Service:	Kids Corner Pre-School
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Address of Service:	31 Droimneach, Bweeng, Co Cork
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Eircode:	P51 C9H2
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Name of Registered Provider:	Linda Browne
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	25/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 134 Bank Place Mallow Co Cork
Inspection undertaken by:	B Fraher
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
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Description of service

Kids Corner Pre-school is a private sessional service operating since 2016, providing early years care and education to children from 2 years to 6 years of age. The service is registered for both morning and afternoon sessions from 09:10 until 12:10 and 12:30 until 15:30. The service is open Monday to Friday, facilitating the Early Years Care and Education (ECCE) scheme for 38 weeks of the year.

Kids Corner Pre-school is located in a residential estate in the rural village of Bweeng in north Cork, operating from the ground floor of the registered provider's home. The service comprises of a hallway, care room, kitchen along with adult and child toilet facilities. An outdoor play area is available at the rear of the service.

Staffing

There are two staff working daily in the service, one of whom is an AIM support worker. The registered provider works in the service but was absent on the day of inspection. There was a designated person in charge on the day.

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 and safety. 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 children, person in charge and staff 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) There was a person in charge on the day of inspection and a named deputy was available to deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge was on duty when the inspector arrived and remained present throughout the inspection.
- (2) The staff files in relation to three adults who were employed in the service were the subject of the inspection.
- (a) Of the six required references, five were from previous employers with required records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the six required references, one was from another source other than a previous employer with a record of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained and were on file for each of the three adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) No staff member had lived outside the state for over six months as an adult, therefore no police vetting was required.
- (4) Records demonstrate that the three adults had achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 to level 8 as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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

The following policies were reviewed and were found to meet the necessary requirements:

- Policy on outings.
- Policy on authorisation to collect children.
- Policy on healthy eating.
- Policy on administration of medication.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) At the time of inspection, there were the minimum number of adults required, responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children in attendance at all times.

(3) The service exceeded the minimum ratio required as per regulation in the care room. The eight children attending the service were supervised directly by two adults.

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

(1) (a-i) The records of the eight early years children attending the service on the day of inspection were reviewed. The records were found to contain all the required information.

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,

Compliance Information

Basic needs:

- The layout of the care room supported the children to move freely within their environment and to actively engage in their chosen tasks.
- Food was prepared by the parents or guardians and was stored in the refrigerator. The food was observed to be healthy and nutritious in the service.
- Children were observed accessing the toilet under the supervision of the staff who were available to assist if needed.
- Children who wished to rest while they attended the service could avail of a soft cushioned area in the room.
- Staff sat at the tables during snack time, interacting with the children and providing assistance when needed to open food items.

Supporting relationships:

- During snack times, a social environment was promoted, as the adult's encouraged conversation and the children were afforded plenty of time to enjoy their food.
- The adults were observed to demonstrate patience and kindness in their interactions with the children, as was noted when the children's efforts were readily acknowledged and when children were calmly assisted to resolve minor conflicts.
- Throughout the morning, a notably calm atmosphere was evident in the care room. The staff engaged in activities with the children asking questions and feeding back the child's ideas while assisting them with their individual needs. The inspector observed activities being carried out such as doing puzzles, storey time and drawing.
- Communication with parents or guardians was observed at collection with staff heard exchanging information regarding the child's day. Staff stated they also use a software technology application to provide information to parents as well as using phone messages and emails.

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 door was secured. This restricted unauthorised access to the building and prevented the risk of children exiting unsupervised.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of the children.
- The toys and play equipment assessed was in good condition.
- The outdoor area was safe and secure with a wall, fencing and a gate. This prevented children from gaining unsupervised access to unsafe areas.
- The equipment assessed in the outdoor area was in good condition.

Infection control:

- Handwashing facilities were accessible to the children with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- The temperature of the warm water in the sanitary accommodation and the sinks in the kitchen and outdoor area were recorded between 30.2°C and 41°C.
- Children were observed to wash their hands before snacks and after using the sanitary accommodation.
- Lidded pedal bins were in use for the disposal of waste in the sanitary area and the care room.
- Children's coats and bags were stored off the ground.
- A refrigerator was used for the storage of perishable food.

Administration of medication:

- Medication was not observed to be administered to the children on the day of inspection.
- Temperature reducing medicine was stored in the original boxes out of reach of children. The medicine inspected was in date and parental consent for the administration of this was available in the children's files.

Fire safety:

- Fire exits were noted to be free from obstruction.
- All fire extinguishers were wall mounted.

Outing:

- The inspector was informed that the service goes on occasional outings to places of interest. Risk assessments performed prior to two outings were furnished to the inspector and these were in line with the services outings policy.

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-

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

Compliance Information

(1) The attendance book was available and the inspector observed that all the children present on the day had their check in and out times completed.

(3)

(b) A daily record of visitors to the premises was kept in the software technology application in use. The inspector was signed in and out through this application.

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 one staff member on duty with up to date first aid responder (FAR) training.
- (2)
 - (a) There was a sufficiently stocked first aid box available in the service, which was safely stored out of reach of children.
 - (b) During the inspection the first aid supplies were available to the adults to use for the children if needed.