

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016TY014
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Rockids Limited
-------------------------	-----------------

Address of Service:	Gortnarush, Dundrum, Co Tipperary
----------------------------	-----------------------------------

Eircode:	E34 NX39
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Liam Ryan & Noreen Ryan
-------------------------------------	-------------------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	30/04/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	39	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
---	--

Inspection undertaken by:	Antoinette McNamara
----------------------------------	---------------------

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 service provides sessional, part time and full day care programmes to children aged 12 months to 6 years of age, 50 weeks per year. Including a sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) service, 9:30am to 12:30pm, 38 weeks per year. The service is registered to operate 7.30am to 6.00pm in a repurposed two storey building in Dundrum, Co Tipperary. The service has four care rooms over two floors, the wobbler and toddler rooms are on the ground floor. The preschool room is on the first floor. The fourth room upstairs is used for a school age service which is also provided by the service.

Staffing

The service employs eight staff members. Both registered providers work directly in the service. Staff members held qualifications in early childhood education and care at Level 5, and 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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. 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)(8) Staffing levels,

Regulation 21 Equipment and materials

Regulation 22 Food and drink

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare 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, 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,

(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 designated person in charge and a named deputy designated person in charge who was able to deputise, as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present for the inspection.

The staff files for three new staff were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each new staff member working at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from sources such as previous schools and colleges.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for each staff member working in the service. Garda vetting had been renewed, in compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable. Review of the curriculum vitae indicated that police vetting was not required.

(4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working directly with children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times, provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care of the children.

(2) The adult child ratios during the day of inspection met the requirements of the regulations as follows:

- Wobbler room: 4 children cared for by 1 staff member.
- Toddler room: 11 children cared for by 2 staff members.
- ECCE: 24 children cared for by 3 staff members.

There were also 2 staff members available for cover present on the day of inspection.

(8) Documentary evidence indicated that there were always at least two adults on the premises while children were in attendance.

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 service was equipped with suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials in adequate quantities for the number of children attending, their ages and stages of development. Furniture included child height tables for dining and table-top activities. There were a variety of chairs suitable for use by infants, toddlers, young children and adults. Open shelving units that were accessible to the children were available and used for toy display and storage in each room. The children had access to toys and materials such as arts and crafts materials, construction toys, puzzles and books. The children's artwork was displayed on the walls of the service. Outdoors there were three separate areas that were secure. There was a range of resources available to the children such as swings, mud kitchen, tyres, a selection of ride on toys and a shed which held extra outdoor resources.

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. All foods eaten by the children were supplied by their parents. The service manager and staff said that they actively promoted healthy eating in the service and regularly sent reminders to parents to support them to make healthy food choices for their children. Children brought their own drink bottles which were stored on a shelf in their rooms where the children could access them when they wanted them. Bottles were refilled with water as required. Foods eaten at snack time on morning of the inspection included: rice cakes, cheese, fruit and crackers.

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 premises was locked and needed to be opened from the inside, therefore children could not exit the service unsupervised and unsupervised visitors could not enter. There was also a gate present outside the main door into the car park that could be closed for when children were going to use the outdoor area. The outdoor area was secure to prevent children from leaving. Blind cords were secured to the walls. Pinch guards covered the hinges on all doors to prevent injury to children. All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to children. The stairway was well lit and had two handrails, one at adult height and a child height one. There was an emergency contact list on the wall in the main entrance. As the weather was warm the children wore sunhats and suncream.

Infection control:

The service was clean and well presented. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service. There were designated children's toilets available to the children. Designated staff toilets were also provided. Children were supported to wash their hands at appropriate times during the day such as before eating and after outdoor play. Staff wore gloves and aprons for nappy changing, in line with the nappy changing policy. There was also hand washing facilities available in the nappy changing area. Cots in the sleep room were positioned at least 50cm apart as required to ensure adequate ventilation around each cot and to prevent cross infection. There were waterproof mattress protectors on the cot mattresses. Foot pedal operated bins were also in use. Perishable foods were stored in the fridge. Staff wore gloves and hair nets when giving out meals.

Administration of medication:

The service had a medication administration policy and records for recording of medication. Records reviewed indicated that staff were following the policy, records were correctly maintained, dated, signed and witnessed by staff and signed parents.

Safe sleep:

There was a designated sleep room in the premises for children to sleep during their attendance in the service.

The service had a safe sleep policy. Cots were provided, which were designated to individual children who required naps during their time spent in the service. A room thermometer was in operation to ensure that the room temperature was maintained between 18- 22°C. Staff recorded physical checks, colour, position and breathing every 10 minutes, recording the findings on individual children’s sleep records, in line with the service’s safe sleep policy which was displayed on the sleep room door.

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 were staff trained in first aid responder (FAR) available to the children attending the service.
- (2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.
- (b) The first aid box was 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 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 written record of the monthly fire drills that took place in the service, most recently on 6 May 2023.

(b) There was a written record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service. A fire register was maintained for these records and all records associated with fire safety in the service. The firefighting equipment had an annual service in November 2024. The smoke alarm system was also last serviced in November 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the wall in each room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

An in-date certificate was in place to demonstrate that the service was insured to provide full day care for the number of children the service is registered to accommodate.