

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016WW001
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Name of Service:	Kids Inc Childcare
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Address of Service:	11 Inbhear Mór Square, Templeraíne, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	Y14 DY61
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Name of Registered Provider:	Leanne King
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	28/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	9	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	Mona Condon
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

Kidz Ink Childcare is a sessional service which provides care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. The opening hours of the service are from 9.00am to 12.30pm daily. The service also provides care for school-aged children from 8am to 9am and from 1pm to 5pm daily during the school terms.

The service operates from an adapted retail unit in Arklow town, County Wicklow. A sanitary area and an office/kitchen area are adjacent to the room. The outdoor area is located at the rear and side of the premises.

Staffing

There are a total of three adults employed, which includes the Registered Provider, who work directly with the pre-school children.

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 Registered Provider, staff member and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

The files for three staff members were reviewed.

(2)(a)(b) There were six written and validated references available for the three staff members.

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for three staff members.

(d) International police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4)

The three adults employed held major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at National Framework for 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.

(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) There were two adults, which included the Registered Provider, working directly with nine pre-school children during the inspection.

(3) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection.

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

(1)(a)-(i)

Ten files were examined.

In relation to the files examined, the record required in writing in relation to (a)-(i) above was kept for each child. Each child's file was located in a secure place in the service.

(3) (c) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) (a)-(i) was open to inspection on the premises by the inspectors.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The Inspector observed that staff were attentive to the personal care of the children. Staff assisted children in the bathroom used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children.

At snack time the staff helped the children when needed whilst supporting their independence. Drinks of water were offered regularly.

All children were given the opportunity to play outdoors. Staff interacted with the children encouraging turn-taking and giving them an opportunity to try equipment/toys safely.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed them by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. The staff provided the children with comfort when they became upset - holding them, listening to and talking to them in soft tones. The children then settled back happily to play and interact with their friends and engage in activities.

Transitions were handled well by staff with notice given prior to change and children actively helping to facilitate the change.

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

- All toys and equipment were in good condition.
- Fire exits were unobstructed.
- All cleaning products were stored out of the reach of children.
- A written daily risk assessment was completed in the service.

Infection Control:

- Pedal operated bins were available for the safe disposal of used paper towels in the sanitary area and the care room.
- Table cleaning was observed before snack time.
- Hand washing by the adult and children was observed after using the toilet, after outdoor play and before lunch. Liquid soap and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. Written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child.

Outings:

- The Registered Provider confirmed that the service undertakes an outing once yearly. A comprehensive outings policy was available.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

On inspection unauthorised access was possible into the outdoor area. It was noted that the children were supervised at all times when outdoors. The high gate located at the side of the building had a handle to open it which could be used by a person from outside to gain access to the children when outdoors. It is acknowledged that when this was brought to the Registered Provider's attention; a lock was immediately put on the gate.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

Corrective Action

We will use the pad lock on the high gate in the morning when the children have arrived and keep it there until home time.

Summary Comment

The action taken by the Registered Provider has addressed the non-compliance as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 23.

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)
Two adults trained in First Aid Response was present and were immediately available to the pre-school children. A third staff member, who was not present on inspection, was also trained in First Aid Response.

(2)
(a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school.
(b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children.

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) A record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises. The last fire drill was recorded on the 25/10/2023.
- (b)
- A record was available detailing the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarm, dated February 2023 and September 2023 respectively.
- (4)
- Notices were displayed in conspicuous positions, detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.

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

During the inspection the pre-school children were supervised at all times by the two adults present.