

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2017SO502				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kevinsfort Kids Academy				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	34 Kestrel Drive, Kevinsfort, Co. Sligo				
<b>Eircode:</b>	n/a				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Geraldine Mousa				
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional				
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	04/04/2025				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>11</td> <td>PM</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> </table>	AM	11	PM	n/a
AM	11	PM	n/a		
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Office, Child and Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84				
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L Costello.				
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Kevinsfort Kids Academy is a registered sessional preschool service. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of eleven children aged from 3-6 years. The service is operated from the registered provider's home. There is one large playroom. The children have access to the kitchen for snack and mealtimes. The children's sanitary accommodation is on the ground floor of the registered provider's home with the adult sanitary accommodation on the first floor.

### Staffing

The Registered Provider is the named adult for operating the service and works directly with the children. A second adult works in the preschool service as relief and also is the emergency contact person. Both adults hold major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

### 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/ and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 21, 23, 25,26,27 and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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, 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 is the person in charge and was available throughout the inspection. A second person is available to deputise in the absence of the person in charge.

(2) (a) (b)

There are two adults employed in the service and both files were reviewed. Three verified past employer references were available in respect of the two adults and one verified reference from another source in the absence of a past employer was available for review.

(c)  
Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the two staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)  
International police vetting was available for one adult who had resided outside of the state for a period of six months or more as an adult.

(4)  
The two adults had attained major awards in Early childhood care and education at level 5 or above on the national framework of qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement.

### 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.*

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

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to 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) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children on the morning of the unannounced inspection.

(3)  
Two adults provided direct care to 11 preschool children aged between 3 years and 5 years of age, availing of a sessional service.

(8) (c)  
The Registered provider operates single handedly and the emergency contact is available as required. On the day the emergency contact was present for the duration of the inspection.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

- (a) all documents and records relating to references and Garda and police vetting obtained under Regulation 9(2) are retained for a period of 5 years from the date on which the person to whom the document or record relates commences working in the service, and*

*(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.*

## Compliance Information

### (1) (a-i)

The service provided records in relation to (a-i) including rosters, details of adult child ratios and services provided.

### (1) (i)

The Registered provider confirmed that no medication is administered in the service.

### (1) (k)

The Registered provider confirmed that there has been no accidents or incidents in the preschool service over the last two years.

### (2) (a)

The service demonstrated compliance, retaining the necessary records outlined in regulation 9 (2) for a period of five years.

### (3)

All records were available for inspection by the authorised person.

## 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 consisted of a large room operational from the Registered Providers home. A large array of materials and resources were available to the preschool children to facilitate all types of play. The open plan area is equipped with open shelving to facilitate choice. Shelves are equipped with jigsaws, puzzles, tabletop activities to promote fine motor skill development. A large array of Montessori based play equipment is available. A home corner with kitchen, dolls and dress up area facilitates imaginary play. Cars, trucks and tracks provide opportunities for construction and creativity. Arts and crafts materials provide sensory and creative opportunities.

Child size table and chairs are provided for mealtimes and tabletop activities. A cosy and rest area are provided with a sofa and soft cushions, which allow children to relax with a book or opt out of an activity.

An outdoor area is located at the rear of the property with direct access from the preschool room. Playhouses are provided with a storage shed of resources to facilitate gross motor skill development.

### 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 entrance into the service was found to be secured upon the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service, which prevented persons entering unauthorised and children from leaving the building unsupervised.
- Cleaning products were stored in a separate room out of reach of the preschool children.
- Materials and resources were maintained in a good state of repair.
- Leads and flexes were secure and inaccessible to the preschool children.
- The outdoor perimeter was secure with high concrete fencing and metal gates.

##### Infection Control:

- There was adequate handwashing facilities provided throughout the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior and after mealtimes.
- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Children were observed to wash their hands after using the bathroom.

##### Administration of Medication:

- No medication is administered in the sessional service.

##### Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation routes are clearly displayed in the preschool room.
- Emergency exit doors remained free from obstruction on the day of inspection.

#### Non-Compliance Information

**General Safety:**

1. Waste bins in the main care room and kitchen area were not the required foot pedal operated waste bins.

**Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

**Corrective & Preventive Action**

**General Safety:**

1. A new foot operated pedal bin has been purchased.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

1. Photographic evidence submitted.

**Summary Comment**

The corrective and preventive actions adequately address the non-compliance found on inspection. This regulation is now complaint.

**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) The registered provider was trained in first aid for children as evidenced by her first aid responder certificate up until august 2026.

(2) (a) (b)

The service provided an adequately stocked first ai box that was readily available to preschool children as required.

**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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
  - (b) an employee, and
  - (c) an authorised person.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation
- (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) (b)

Regular monthly fire drills took place in the service, the most recent fire drill occurring on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2025. The service displayed a record of all firefighting equipment in the service with an annual service date of the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2024.

(2) (c)

These records were made available on the day to the authorised person.

(3)

The Registered provider is aware of the regulatory requirement to retain these records for a period of five years.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures are clearly displayed in the care room.

### 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

Supervision was observed to occur largely by sight. The preschool operates out of one room which is laid out to support visual supervision of the preschool children. The staff members were observed to position themselves to ensure all children were in view while always playing indoors.

Mealtimes occur in the Registered Providers Kitchen where staff are positioned to ensure the children’s safety at all times. Mealtimes were observed to be a communal experience with staff members had their snack alongside the children. Independence was promoted throughout mealtimes and children were encouraged to open yoghurts and peel fruit; assistance was given if required.

All children attending the preschool were toilet trained and were encouraged to use the bathroom independently. Staff members are in ear shot of the bathroom and are available to support if required.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

The service had an insurance certificate demonstrating adequate insurance for a preschool service providing care to 11 children attending on a sessional basis up until the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2026.