

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2019DL002				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kool Kids Killymard				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gortlosky, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal				
<b>Eircode:</b>	F94YTES				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Alida McGinty				
<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional				
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	30/01/2026				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>16</td> <td>PM</td> <td>12</td> </tr> </table>	AM	16	PM	12
AM	16	PM	12		

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Killeen
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>	
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.
---------------------------------	-----------------

### Description of service

Kool Kids Killymard is a privately-owned, part time service located in a rural setting a short drive from Donegal town. The service is registered to provide sessional and part time day care to children aged 2-6 years. The service operates from 9.00am to 2.00pm. The sessional service operating from 9.30am-12.30pm. The service operates from a two-storey facility which has been purposely adapted for the provision of a preschool service. There is one pre-school room on the ground floor and a second room on the first floor. The premises also includes a kitchen, relevant sanitary and storage facilities. There is a large outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

There is a total of nine staff members working in the service. The register provider works in the service along with six staff working directly with the preschool children. There are two adults who work with the afterschool children which also includes the cook. All six staff members along with the registered provider were present on the day of inspection.

### 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,20,21,23,25 and 27 however, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 26. 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, 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*

*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)  
The registered provider ensured that.
- (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
  - (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- (2)  
Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the register provider it was determined that one new staff member had been employed since the previous inspection.

In addition, Garda vetting for one staff member whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review. The following vetting information was available for one adult:

- (a) Two written validated references from past employers for one adult.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for nine staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.
  - (d) Police vetting from the police authorities in another state was available for two adults who had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or more.
- (4)
- One of the adult files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) 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.*

*(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) On the day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times throughout the inspection.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

*(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-*

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*

#### Compliance Information

1 (a)

The playrooms were observed to be well-resourced with a diverse range of age-appropriate equipment, including dedicated interest areas for construction, "small world" play, and creative arts. Materials were thoughtfully organized on low-level shelving accessible to the children. Appropriately child sized furniture was provided for tabletop activities. The service maintains a designated rest area in each room, furnished with soft mats, cushions, and beanbags, allowing children to relax or opt out of activities as needed. A selection of books was available in these quiet zones to support individual downtime. In Playroom 1, a large sofa and mat with cushions is available as a rest area, along with a big armchair for children to rest on. Children were observed using the chair for rest during the inspection.

In Pre-School Room 2, there is a library area with soft matting providing a comfortable rest space. Both indoor rooms are large and bright with clearly defined play zones to support children's play and rest needs.

1 (b)

The outdoor area is divided into two defined play areas. All children had access to the outdoor area on the day of inspection, which offered a variety of developmental challenges through sloping ground, steps, and a range of ride-on and climbing equipment. The space was well-equipped with diverse play materials, including a mud kitchen and a covered sand box, where children were observed engaging in sensory play and exploring natural elements. An open-sided cladded shelter provided a suitable location for outdoor activities during inclement weather, while the tarmac and grassed surfaces accommodated both wheeled toys and active physical play. Additional nature-based learning opportunities were provided through an enclosed vegetable garden, currently in season with various produce, and a rabbit hutch situated on a bark-mulch surface.

### 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 provides a comprehensive range of furniture, equipment, and materials that are developmentally appropriate and maintained in good condition. Playroom one is equipped with child-sized furniture and open shelving that facilitates independent access to art supplies, sensory dough, and cognitive toys such as building blocks and puzzles; functional areas include a well-stocked home corner, a construction zone, and a library. Playroom two contained four child size tables and eleven chairs. The room offered a diverse array of table-top activities, including stencils, Lego, and jigsaws, alongside themed role-play areas (dentist office, princess castle, and wooden kitchen) and a floor-level road map for movement-based play. Indoor environments are personalised with children’s artwork and family photographs. The outdoor area is resourced for gross motor development, featuring eighteen ride-on vehicles, scooters, and a basketball hoop, supplemented by an outdoor art station. All-weather water play clothes and messy aprons are available to ensure the continuity of outdoor play. All observed materials across the three environments were found to be suitable for the ages and stages of the children in attendance.

### 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 to the service was secure upon the inspector’s unannounced arrival, preventing unauthorized access and unsupervised exits.
- The kitchen area was observed to be inaccessible to children, secured by a correctly fitted child safety gate.
- All cleaning products, detergents, and hand sanitisers are stored in securely locked cabinets out of reach of children.
- Windows are fitted with safety restrictors that limit opening to a safe width.

- Child-sized handrails are installed to ensure children can safely navigate the stairs to the second floor.
- A safety gate is maintained at the base of the stairs to prevent unsupervised access to the upper level.
- The perimeter of outdoor area of the service was secured with high-level fencing and locked gates.
- Materials and resources were visually clean and in good repair.
- Tables were cleaned before and after mealtimes.
- All electrical leads, flexes, and blind cords were securely fastened.
- Adequate handwashing facilities were provided, liquid soap was readily available for children to wash hands before eating and after toileting.
- Grapes were observed to be cut in the children lunches boxes to prevent choking.

### Infection Control:

- The service was cleaned daily and weekly up to date cleaning rosters were available on the premises for review.
- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Tables and were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes in the pre-school room.
- There was adequate handwashing facilities provided throughout the service, with thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available in the sanitary area and preschool rooms.
- The sanitary facilities were observed to be ventilated by openable windows; sanitary facilities were observed to be kept maintained and clean.
- Child friendly handwashing posters were placed beside the sinks.
- Appropriate nappy changing unit was available.

### Administration of Medication:

- Staff interviewed demonstrated a clear understanding of their responsibilities regarding the safe administration of medication in line with the service's policy.
- While no medication was administered on the day of inspection, emergency rescue medications were found to be stored securely and out of reach of children, accompanied by individualised, signed care plans.
- All other anti-febrile medications on-site were checked and confirmed to be within their expiration dates and stored in a location inaccessible to children.

### Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were observed to be unobstructed throughout the service.
- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed in the care rooms.

- Fire extinguishers were on the premises and easily accessible.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

- (1) Garda vetting was available for 9 staff members. However, 1 vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

- (1) Garda Vetting has been received and sent to for review. I have now kept a record of every staff member vetting expire date and i have set a reminder for when each one needs to be renewed to avoid this in the future.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

- (1) Renewed Garda Vetting form received.

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

## 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 service had a total of four staff members with up to date First Aid Response (FAR) training on the day of inspection.
- (2)
- (a) First aid boxes were kept in the preschool rooms and in the outdoor toy storage shed.
  - (b) These first aid boxes were readily available at all times to ensure they could be accessed immediately if a child required treatment.

### 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

On the day of the inspection, children were observed to be appropriately supervised at all times. Staff were strategically positioned across both indoor and outdoor environments, ensuring that all children remained within sight and sound. Supervision was active and attentive; staff were seen to sit closely with the children during mealtimes and remained directly engaged in their activities. Transition from outdoor to indoor was observed to be managed efficiently with staff communicating at all times what child were present or had been brought inside.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) *A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (b) *the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*

### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) The registered provider did not ensure that the fire detection and alarm system was serviced within the required timeframe. Records indicated the system was last serviced on 10/08/2022, which exceeds the mandatory annual servicing intervals required to ensure the system's effectiveness.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

- (1) The Fire company had called to the service to complete maintenance of fire extinguishers. I believed they had done the alarm system too, but unfortunately this was not included. From now on i will make sure that the company know to check both extinguishers and alarm system yearly. have made a note that the

company will check both the alarm system and extinguishers on a yearly basis and i have set a reminder to get them checked next February 2027 to make sure that it doesn't expire again.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

(1) Fire system maintenance cert received.

**Summary Comment**

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 26 has been adequately addressed.