

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D: TU2019DS006

Name of Service Alpine Kidz

Address of Service: Unit 1, Green Isle Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

Email Address: Elaine.hawkins@yahoo.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Elaine Hawkins

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care		Part-Time	✓	Sessional	
	Drop-In		Childminding		Temporary	

Proposed change: Increase the number of children attending to 31 at any one time (including school age children) as per planning permission restrictions.

Proposed Number of Children: 31

Recommended Change Following Inspection: 31 children can attend on a sessional or part time basis

Registered change: Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 16 to 31

Date of Inspection:	2	3	1	0	2	0	2	3
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Inspection undertaken by: F Carty

Title: Early Years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8

Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Part Time Service for 31 Children
Date of Registration	21 st November 2023

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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	Alpine Kidz is a part time preschool service currently providing early childhood education for children aged 2 – 6 years from 9.30am to 1.30pm Monday to Friday. The service currently accommodates a maximum number of 16 children on a part time basis and is proposing to add an additional part time service accommodating a maximum of 15 children.
Premises	The service currently operates from two care rooms in an adapted commercial building in Clondalkin, Dublin 22. One care room is used specifically for school age care. The children will be accommodated in a newly refurbished room on the first floor. High-level heavy-duty fencing secure the perimeter of the outdoor area which is located at the side of the building.
Staffing	The service is currently staffed by four adults. There will be no requirement for additional recruitment of staff. All current staff and the registered provider have obtained childcare qualifications at a minimum level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education or a qualification deemed equivalent.
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and staff who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff

	<p>Child and Family Agency Act 2013</p> <p>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016</p>	<p>Version 05 Implemented- Aug 2022 EYI-IR12.23 F07 FFP (CIC)</p>	<p>2 of 7</p>
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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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service has designated person in charge and a named deputy.

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) An adequate number of adults will work directly in the pre-school service as it is proposed to care for a maximum of 31 pre-school children in the service at any one time. Four adults will work directly with these children and the registered provider will be always present in the service.

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.

(2) A registered provider—

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)

(a) Alpine Kidz currently offers sessional and part time care from one care room. The registered provider plans to accommodate the additional children in a newly refurbished care room on the first floor. Both care rooms which will be used for the

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	<p>care of preschool children are equipped with toys and play equipment on open low-level shelving in areas of interest which included a home area and a cosy corner. Low level tables and chairs were provided in the care room for pre-school children to engage in tabletop activities. A wide variety of materials were available including small world play, art activities, puzzles and construction.</p> <p>(b) Both care rooms have a rest area available. Soft low-level sofas together with cushions and soft matting were available for children to rest and opt out of activities.</p> <p>(2) There is a large outdoor area to the side of the building secured with high level heavy duty fencing and a locked gate. There is a large covered seating area where children can eat and engage in table top activities whilst in the outdoor area. There is large play equipment which aids in gross motor development including ride on toys, climbing frames and a slide.</p>
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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.

Requirement met:

The service proposes that the parents of the additional children will provide the morning snack. The service will provide an additional meal. All perishable food will be stored in a refrigerator below 5° Celsius. Drinking water and additional snacks will also be available to the children if required.

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

External doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. Children will arrive into the service from the front entrance door and will be brought to the playroom or outdoor area by staff members during operational hours of the sessional and part time service. Pre-school children will be collected from the front door after sessional or part time hours by parents/guardians. The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.

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There was provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins throughout the service.
Cleaning schedules were in place.
Cleaning materials were stored safely and out of reach of children.
All toys and furniture appeared in good condition and free from pinch and crush points and sharp edges.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) Certification was available for two adults who will work in the pre-school service to confirm up to date first aid responder training with expiry date of February 2024 and August 2025.

(2)(a) A suitable equipped first aid box was located on high level shelving in the kitchen area on the ground floor.

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)
(a) A recording system was available to ensure that a record could be maintained of monthly fire drills as conducted.

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(b) A recording system was available which confirmed the fire extinguishers located in various locations throughout the building were serviced on the 20th October 2023 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on the same day.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was provided for the pre-school service.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

An insurance quotation was submitted to the Registration Team prior to this inspection. The Registered Provider must ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of the change. The change approval is contingent on the registered providers compliance with Regulation 28.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(a) The service is located in a purposely adapted commercial building. The interior walls, floors and ceilings of the rooms in use by the service appeared in a good state of repair and maintenance. Windows in the care rooms appear to be both water-tight and weather-tight and were both positioned and opened above child height.

(b) The exit from the from the care room to outside was secured and opened only from the inside. The person in charge confirmed that there are no structural defects with the premises.

The outdoor area was secured with gates and fencing.

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	<p>(c) Openable windows are provided in all the care rooms for both natural ventilation and natural day light. The fluorescent light fittings in rooms are covered with shatterproof diffusers.</p> <p>(d) The floor coverings and painted walls and ceilings were observed to be clean and well maintained on the day of inspection. Cleaning equipment and chemicals are located in a cupboard inaccessible to the children.</p> <p>(e) There is one nappy changing facility in the service. There are three toilets and three wash hand basins located in the preschool room on the first floor. There are an additional two toilets and two wash hand basins on the ground floor. Adults have access to sanitary accommodation on the first floor. Soap dispensers and disposable paper towels were provided in the sanitary accommodation. Mechanical ventilation in the form of ceiling vents were in use in all toilets. were in use in all sanitary accommodation throughout the service. The service is connected to the public water supply and public sewage system.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*
- (a) *a sessional pre-school service, and*
 - (b) *a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) An area of 34.81 sqm provided adequate floor space in the proposed new care room for the proposed maximum 15 proposed part-time pre-school children in daily attendance.</p> <p>(2) The area of the care room available, if required, ensured adequate floor space for the proposed maximum number of pre-school children in daily attendance on a part time basis.</p> <p>(4) There is adequate floor space available to children attending on a sessional or part time basis, accommodating a maximum of 31 children at any one time.</p>
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