

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019DS006				
Name of Service:	Alpine Kidz				
Address of Service:	Unit 1, Green Isle Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin				
Eircode:	D22 RK71				
Name of Registered Provider:	Elaine Hawkins				
Service type:	Part Time				
Date(s) of Inspection:	11/12/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>15</td> <td>PM</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </table>	AM	15	PM	9
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8				
Inspection undertaken by:	Fiona Carty				
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

Alpine Kidz is a privately operated part time and sessional service located in Clondalkin Dublin 22. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 7.30am and 18:30pm and operates from a two storey adapted industrial building with two care rooms available to the children. On the day of inspection only one care room was in operation.

A sessional service is offered from 9.00am to 12.00pm Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. A school age service is also offered.

An enclosed outdoor play area was located to the side of the property.

Staffing

On the day of inspection there were two staff present however a further two staff including the registered provider arrived subsequent to the inspectors arrival.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11-Staffing levels

Regulation 15- Information on a child

Regulation 16 – Information and Records

Regulation 19 – Health, welfare and development of the child

Regulation 23 - Safety.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations 15 and 16.

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

(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 inspection focussed on all adults working in the service. There were five staff members recruitment files reviewed:

(2)

(a)(b)

Ten references from two sources were available and adequately validated for all adults.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff.

(d)

International Police vetting was available for three adults who had lived outside of the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

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) An adequate number of adults were working with the children throughout the inspection.

(2) At all times the minimum ratios of adults to children were maintained. There were two adults working directly with 15 children.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of six records were reviewed by the inspector. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to (a) – (i) of the above Regulation for all of the records reviewed.

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:

- (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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) A written record was available detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.
 - (i) A staffing roster was available in the service detailing hours of work for each staff member on the day of inspection.
 - (j) Signed parental consent was available to administer temperature reducing and emergency medication.
 - (k) A sample of accident and incident records were reviewed and were signed by staff and adults and completed appropriately.

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-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

The inspector observed children moving freely within the care room which was in use of the day of inspection. Both care rooms were inspected from an environment perspective and had defined interest areas including a home corner, construction area, art area and book corner. Materials and equipment were stored on low level shelves and had jigsaws, puzzles, small world toys and vehicles.

Children's artwork was displayed on the walls and each child had their own learner journal with photographs and artwork the children had made which evidenced what the children had created.

The room has child sized tables and chairs for children to sit at for mealtimes and table top activities. Children were observed engaged in a variety of activities throughout the morning with staff assisting them when required. A large outdoor area was available to the side of the building with a covered area, a variety of ride on toys and a climbing frame was available. Children were comforted in a timely manner and their feelings were acknowledged when situations arose. Staff made themselves available to the children to extend learning and were also on hand should a child require support. Ongoing observations and assessments were documented which informed curriculum planning. There were a variety of equipment and materials that met the developmental needs of the children. Children's language development was supporting through discussions and story telling.

The children's parents or guardians provided their snack which included a variety of yoghurts, sandwiches and fruit. The service provided a further snack to those children who attended on a part time basis.

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:

Access to the service was secure ensuring no unauthorised access to or from the building. Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children. Heavy furniture was secured and cables were out of reach of children. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.

Infection Control:

Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet, and before meals. The inspector observed the premises and play equipment to be appropriately maintained and in a clean condition. Pedal operated lidded bins were available for the safe disposal of waste.

Fire Safety:

All emergency exits were kept clear and staff stated regular fire drills took place in the service.