

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020MN004		
Name of Service:	Lisdoonan Kids Korner Ltd		
Address of Service:	St Patricks Afterschool, Taplagh, Broomfield, Co. Monaghan		
Eircode:	A75 TK84		
Name of Registered Provider:	Margaret Cunningham		
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	19/04/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM -
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate No.18 The Grange Plantation Walk Monaghan		
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader		
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		

Description of service

This privately owned service commenced in 2020. It provides a sessional service to children aged 2 years 6 months – 6 years. The service operates from 9:30 – 12:30 and caters for a maximum of 22 children. The service partakes in the ECCE scheme Monday to Friday. This service is located in a prefabricated building to the side of the local primary school in Broomfield Co. Monaghan. There is 1 care room, sanitary accommodation, a kitchen area and an outdoor play area to the side of the service.

Staffing

There are 4 staff including the registered provider working directly with the children one of whom is a relief worker.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulations 23 and 25. 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 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 service had a designated person in charge and named deputy person to deputise as required. The person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived and present throughout the inspection.

There were 4 staff members employed in the service including the registered provider. All 4 files were reviewed.

(2)(a) & (b) There were 2 written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for 3 members of staff and 1 written and validated reference for the 4th staff member in the service.

There was 1 written reference for the 4th staff member.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff members. 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 in relation to 1 staff member. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Following a review of the staff files presented for inspection documentary evidence indicated that international police vetting was not required as none of the staff members had lived outside the Irish jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the childcare qualification for all 4 members of staff in the service met the minimum Level 5 requirement.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) and (b) The second written reference of one staff member was not validated.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Written reference supplied and verified for staff member.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of reference submitted.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response is accepted, and the non-compliance has been addressed.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is always 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) On the day of inspection when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service there was 1 room in operation. During the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.

(3) The child adult ratios were correct, there were 2 adults caring for 18 preschool children aged 3 - 6 years.

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

Compliance Information

There was 1 care room in operation on the day of the inspection. A second smaller care room to the front of the building is currently not in use.

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated in the service:

Basic Needs:

- Lunches were supplied by the parents and stored appropriately in the fridge.
- All children were given adequate time to eat their lunch and not rushed. Those who were finished earlier were re-directed to choose a tabletop activity.
- Independence with toileting was promoted for the children who were toilet trained. Gentle handwashing reminders were also given to the children after toileting and messy play and before lunch.
- Tissues were available in the room.
- The children were observed to move freely in the care room and had free access to all the toys.
- Protective clothing was available for messy and wet play.

Supporting Relationships

- The adults in the service were observed to interact with the children in a warm and supportive manner. Soft tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the children and staff.
- The adults sat with the children at activities and lunchtime and the children were observed to actively seek out the adults.
- Parents were informally communicated with at drop off and collection times and it was also reported that a phone messaging application was also used.
- The service used a jobs board to promote and encourage self-care and independence such as laying out equipment, seat mats and putting away their lunches.

Physical and Material Environment

- A variety of age-appropriate toys and materials were available in the care room and accessed by the children during free play. Various interest areas had been developed and these supported many areas of development such as fine motor skills, role play and sensory development.
- Toys and equipment were positioned on open low-level shelving which promoted independence and facilitated free choice for the children.

Programme Of Activities

- Activities that promoted the children's language development were observed with the reading of story books.
- Scrapbooks were available for the children which contained children's artwork, pictures, and observations from the year.
- Artwork in the service included fingerprint painting, spring themed flowers, chicks, and paper plate snails.

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.

Non - Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. While Garda vetting was available for 1 staff member, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. In the outdoor area the bottom of the plastic slide was broken and cracked. This was an injury hazard.
3. There were sharp corners on the blue shelving unit and one of the brown shelving units in the preschool room.

Infection Control:

4. Although not observed to be used on the day of inspection, staff reported that a cloth towel was used for drying the children's hands in the service. This is a cross contamination and infection control risk.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Garda Vetting updated and renewed. Garda vetting will be updated and renewed.
2. Broken slide had been removed from the yard to prevent injury.
3. Sharp corners on unit and shelving have been covered with corner protectors.

Infection Control:

4. Hand towels are removed and no longer used for drying the children's hands. Only tissue rolls are supplied for hand drying.

All issues have been added to the daily risk assessment and staff will contact management if any equipment is broken or injury risks identified.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence of garda vetting submitted.

Photographic of newly fitted corner protectors on shelving submitted.

Photographic evidence of the removal of the slide removed from garden submitted.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence of removal of handtowels from cupboard submitted.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response and supporting documentation have been reviewed and the non-compliances in Regulation 23 are addressed. These will be for review at the next inspection.

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.

Non -Compliance Information

The registered provider did not ensure that a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has now made it mandatory for all staff working within the service to have First Aid training as part of their employment requirements. The registered provider is trained in First Aid for Children and will be present on site until all staff have their training completed. Six staff have completed training with an external company on the 8th, 9th and 22nd of June 2024.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence of training booking reservation letter and course completion submitted.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance in Regulation 25 has been addressed.

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 was maintained of the monthly fire drills which had been completed in the service. A fire drill was last carried out on 20/03/24.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The equipment was last serviced 12/4/24.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.