

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022FL008				
Name of Service:	Kidology Childcare (Mulhuddart) Ltd				
Address of Service:	Unit 4, Parkside, Navan Road, Mulhuddart.Dublin 15..				
Eircode:	D15 AV84				
Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Finnegan				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	28/05/2026				
No of pre-school children:	<table> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>35</td> <td>PM</td> <td>38</td> </tr> </table>	AM	35	PM	38
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	JA. McKimm and E. Griffin
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Kidology Childcare (Mulhuddart) is a full day care service operating from the ground floor of a retail building in Dublin 15. Kidology is one of three services operated by the registered provider and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 53 children aged 1 to 6 years, Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.00pm. The service is currently operating 8.00am to 4.00pm term time, 38 weeks of the year. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme, which is delivered on a sessional basis in the morning from 9.00am to 12.00 and offers a part-time and full-time service. There are 4 care rooms; the Yellow Room (1 to 2 years), the Green Room (2 to 3 years), the Red Room (2 to 3 years) and the Blue Room (3 to 6 years). The Green Room was not in use on the day of the inspection. There are sanitary facilities located off each of the care rooms. Other facilities include a cot room which is located off the Yellow Room, an office, staff room and kitchen. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There are currently nine staff employed by the service including the registered provider, the person in charge and seven childcare staff who work directly with the children. The registered provider is supernumerary and manages the oversight of the three services. Present on the day of the inspection was the registered provider, a co-director, a regional operations supervisor, the person in charge and seven childcare staff.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance and health, welfare and development of child and safety.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under the following regulations:

- Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, Welfare and Development of Child,
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.

As a result of this, the scope of the inspection included the red room and the yellow room.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, a co-director, a regional operations supervisor, the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
IAN0262	21/05/2026	Translated police vetting was not available for one staff member who was working directly with and had access to children.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately following the service of the notice. The registered provider submitted a detailed response with corrective and preventive actions which were accepted by the Inspectorate. This is now closed.	

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.
- (b) A named person in charge or a person to deputise is rostered to be on the premises at all times during the service opening hours.
- (c) Staff were clear around their roles and responsibilities and reporting structures within the service.

(2) The file of the registered provider and ten adults were reviewed as part of the inspection, and the following checks were completed.

- (a) There were twenty-one written and validated references available from a past employer.
- (b) There was one written and validated references available from reputable source.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and ten adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) The registered provider ensured that the eight adults employed within the service to provide direct care to the children whose records were reviewed, held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Ireland Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN 0262 served.

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) The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working with the children throughout the inspection. There were eight adults caring for thirty-five children on the morning of inspection and eight adults caring for thirty-eight children in the afternoon of inspection.

(2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

(1) (a) The following activities, interactions, materials and equipment were observed to support children's learning and development:

Basic needs

- Children's needs were met in a warm caring responsive manner, as a result children were observed to be confident in their environment for example, they communicated comfortably with the inspectors and were keen to show their toys and playthings to the inspectors.
- Children were observed to have the opportunity to move freely through their care rooms where possible and independently access play equipment of their choice. Staff were kind and consistent in their support of children while they explored their environment.
- Children were provided with regular meals and snacks, the food served was reflected in the service menu. On the morning of the inspection children in the care rooms were served a snack of scones .A hot lunch of turkey with arrabbiata pasta was served, an alternative meal was available for children who did not eat the meal offered. Drinks of water were offered at all mealtimes to children and water was accessible to children throughout the day.
- The presence of a visual daily routine on display provided the children with a sense of stability, security, and predictability. In addition, staff were observed to give children verbal reminders in advance of moving from one activity to the next activity
- Children's sense of identity was promoted throughout the care rooms. For example, there was a 'birthday date' display and children's artwork was on display in all care room. In addition, there were "Where we live" community noticeboards in each care room and children had their own individually labelled coat hooks.
- All children had the opportunity to engage in outdoor play on the day of inspection and staff ensured they were appropriately dressed for warm weather by wearing sun hats and applying suncream.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting Relationships.

- Children's emotional well-being was supported by staff who showed an interest in children's activities by asking questions and taking part in their play.
- Children's behaviour was managed using positive age-appropriate strategies such as intervening immediately when minor incidents arose, stating clear expected boundaries, and offering comfort when needed.
- Staff interacted positively and respectfully with one another, demonstrating strong teamwork in the setting, for example on the day of inspection a rehearsal was taking place for the year end graduation party and staff allocated tasks and roles to each other to ensure the smooth running of the event.

Physical and Material Environment

- The furniture provided in the rooms was low level and appropriate for children attending, with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- An outdoor play area was available for the children with a soft ground surface. Equipment and toys available included an outdoor play kitchen and a playhouse with props. There was ride on equipment and a basketball hoop.
- The rooms were well laid out with designated areas of interest to provide for distinct types of play and learning. For example, the Red room has a construction corner, a home corner, tabletop activities and cosy area where children read stories.

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:

- On the unannounced arrival at the service by the inspectors, the entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured with keypad access to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises throughout the inspection.
- Medication was observed to be stored safely out of the reach to the children.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- All the furniture, toys and equipment were observed to be in good condition in the rooms.

Infection Control:

- Foot operated pedal bins were in use for the appropriate disposal of waste in the care room and sanitary facilities. These were observed to be in good working order.
- The sanitary accommodation was equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, and hand drying facilities.
- The premises was observed to be in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

- Emergency medication was clearly labelled and stored safely.

Safe Sleep:

- Children under two years of age were provided with a cot for sleeping.
- Children over two years of age were provided with floor mats for sleeping.
- Outer clothing was removed from the children before sleep time.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency and fire exits were signposted and unobstructed and staff were aware of the evacuation procedures and location of the assembly point. The children's attendance book was monitored to ensure staff knew how many children were present in the care rooms. This ensured a safe evacuation of the children in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. There was no safety lock on two presses containing hazardous cleaning materials and as a result these products were potentially accessible to children. It is acknowledged that once the risk was brought to the attention of the person in charge the cleaning products were removed and a new safety lock was installed by 2pm on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

2. Safe sleep practices for children under the age of two sleeping in cots were not carried out in line with Tusla safe sleep guidance or service policy which posed a risk to children's safety. Three children were observed to be sleeping with comforters present in cots for a prolonged period which is not in line with safe sleep guidance.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. All hazardous cleaning materials were removed from the lower storage presses and relocated to a higher shelf inaccessible to children. In addition, a safety lock was installed on the storage unit. These corrective actions were completed by 2:00pm on the day of the inspection. Regular health and safety checks will continue to include verification that all storage units containing hazardous materials are appropriately secured.

Safe Sleep:

2. The finding was brought to the attention of the Person in Charge during the inspection. The comforters were removed immediately from the cots of the children concerned and staff were reminded of the requirements of the service's Safe Sleep Policy and Tusla Safe Sleep Guidance. Safe sleep practices have been added as a specific item to room supervision checks and management audits. The Person in Charge will continue to monitor compliance through regular observations and supervision to ensure ongoing adherence to the service's Safe Sleep Policy and Tusla Safe Sleep Guidance.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Evidence noted on day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 23. The practices outlined in the corrective and preventative actions will be reviewed on the next inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) There was documentary evidence to show that four adults held certification in First Aid Response training and that at least one adult was rostered to be available at all times to the children attending the preschool.
- (2) (a)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available to the adults caring for the children and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the care rooms and in the office.

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 firefighting 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) The records available demonstrated that fire drills are held monthly within the service and the service conducted a fire drill on 15 May 2026.
 - (b) Records demonstrate that the firefighting equipment including smoke alarms had been serviced annually, with the last service taking place in September 2025 and February 2026 respectively.
- (4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had adequate insurance for the 53 children registered to attend the service with an expiry date of March 2027.