

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023CC005
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Name of Service:	Kinsale Kids Academy
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Address of Service:	Ocean Drive Road, Kinsale Manor, Kinsale, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P17 YD77
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Name of Registered Provider:	Thomas Stapleton
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	20/03/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	10
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurranaברה, Cork
Inspection undertaken by:	C Stokes
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	N/A
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Description of service

Kinsale Kids Academy is a new purpose-built full day care setting in a residential area of Kinsale town. It opened in January 2024 with 4 care rooms. This service is registered to operate from 7.30am to 6pm. It is registered to cater for children aged 1 to 6 years. In addition to the 4 care rooms, there is an outdoor area to the rear, two sleep rooms, a kitchenette, sanitary facilities, staff room and storage room. On the day of inspection, two care rooms were in operation.

Staffing

The registered provider is not service based. The service is run by a person in charge and deputy who were present on inspection. In addition, there were 3 staff and 1 student on work experience. All adults with the exception of the student had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare, and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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*
- (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 registered provider ensured that there was a designated person in charge of operating the service.

(b) In addition to the person in charge, there was a deputy person in charge. The inspection was facilitated by the designated person in charge.

(c) There was a clear line of management in place, and this was displayed at the front door for parents.

(2) (a) The staff recruitment files for all 9 adults including the registered provider were examined as part of this inspection. When this recruitment file was reviewed two written and appropriately validated references were available from 8 past employers.

(b) Two written and appropriately validated references were available from 10 sources other than past employers.

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

(4) A certificate of qualification in Early Childhood care and education at a minimum of QQI level 5 on the National Qualification framework was on file for 7 adults working directly with children. The student on work experience was studying for a qualification in Early Childhood care and education.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (d) Police vetting was required but not available for 1 adult who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period exceeding 6 months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d) The registered provider responded via CAPA to state that the necessary police vetting was submitted within a week of the inspection and no staff or student on placement will be allowed commence in the absence of police vetting, if required.

Supporting documentation submitted

The police vetting was submitted subsequent to the inspection dated 26 March 2024.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted by the registered provider on 15 April 2024 was assessed and met the regulatory requirements of this regulation.

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 an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.

(2) The following rooms which were in operation met the adult/child ratio,

Room	Age	Adults	Children	Ratio
Baby/Wobbler 'Lullaby Lane'	12months to 2 years	2	6 morning, 5 afternoon	1:5
Toddler 'Paradise Place'	2-3 years	2	5 children morning & afternoon	1:6

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

Basic Needs

- Adults were observed to interact and encourage/assist the children to make the meal times a social occasion, while encouraging independence. Dinner time was observed in the toddler room, where were observed to enjoy their meal, sitting around a horseshoe shaped table with the adults present to assist as necessary. Children in the baby/wobbler room were observed having their meal seated in highchairs where the 2 adults either encouraged self-feeding or fed the children according to their age and stage of development.
- In the toddler and baby/wobbler rooms children were observed to be changed regularly.
- There was a cosy corner in the home area to provide for the children's need for rest and relaxation in each room. In addition, there were 2 designated sleep rooms for the baby/wobblers with a total of 8 cots to facilitate sleep on demand for the 6 baby/wobblers in attendance. Children in the toddler room were observed to sleep on stackable beds after lunchtime.
- There was a warm and engaging atmosphere observed throughout the two of four rooms which were in operation in the service with adults modelling low tones and supportive engagement.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The service had a 'daybook' to communicate with parents about their child's meals, nappies, sleep, and daily activities.
- Regular observations on the children were maintained in learning journals and that parents receive these from the service monthly.
- The adults were observed to show positive regard for the children on the day of inspection, with encouragement and praise for specific tasks in a warm and caring manner for example during mealtimes, and sleep time where nurturing and enthusiastic interactions were observed.
- Monthly team meetings were held to encourage a sense of teamwork and consistency of practice across the service. The person in charge advised that notes of these meetings were maintained, and staff appraisals were also completed regularly.

Physical and Material Environment

- The indoor environment was child friendly, bright, and spacious and laid out in special interest areas with materials accessible to the children in both the baby/wobbler and toddler rooms.
- Interest areas in the toddler room included a creative area with arts and crafts, library with soft area (rug and cushions); home corner (kitchen); construction toy, tabletop toys, shop, tent; and transport toys. Child sized tables and chairs were available.
- Soft matting and cushions and a cushioned climbing area were available in the baby/wobbler room. In addition, there was a ball pool, tunnel and various small toys and pieces of play equipment suitable for the age range in the baby/wobbler room.
- The outdoor area had a large, fixed playground style equipment with climbing and slide on impact absorbing matting covered by a canopy to facilitate all weather -use of the outdoor space. In addition, there was a grass area for ball play/free running space /games etc. The designated person in charge advised that the outdoor area was to be developed further with interest areas in the coming months.

Programme of Activities

- The person in charge advised that each room had their own programme of activities based on the children's age, stage of development and interests. As the service is so newly established staff and children were in a settling phase and the setting planned around three main activities daily, a book activity, an arts/crafts activity, and an outdoor activity.
- The person in charge advised that children in each room uses the outdoor space daily, together, and separately.

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.

Compliance Information

- The service offered breakfast, morning snack, lunch, hot afternoon snack and cold afternoon snack with appropriate intervals between meals.
- The menu plan was observed to be suitable, varied, balanced and nutritious.
- An external food company provided the hot meals which were reheated on the premises in the kitchenette.
- Drinks were available to children with meals and were readily available outside of mealtimes.

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:

- Blind cords were observed to be secured on the day of inspection.
- External doors and internal doors were secured.
- Storage of stackable beds was secured in a storage unit in the toddler room.
- Cleaning agents and equipment were inaccessible, and the storeroom was locked.
- The outdoor area was secured, and no hazards were observed.

Infection Control:

- A supply of thermostatically controlled hot water was available for hand washing at the sinks. Soap, and paper towels were in place. Lidded, foot operated pedal bins were available in the toilets for the disposal of nappies/paper towels.

Administration of Medication:

- One child required medication in the service. This was stored in the fridge, as appropriate. There was a medicine consent form in place. One staff administered the medication, while a second staff member

witnessed it. In addition, there was a supply of anti-febrile medication in the office. The designated person in charge advised that parents/guardians were always contacted in advance to advised if their child has a temperature.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff conducted 10-minute sleep checks on sleeping children which were recorded.
- Cots were appropriately spaced in the sleep room.
- Children had their own individual cot and bed linen.
- Toddlers slept in their care room on stackable beds and the adults remained in the room during sleep time.

Fire Safety:

- No issues with fire safety were observed. Emergency exit routes were clear.

Outing:

- No outings were observed on the day of inspection.