

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023LD001		
Name of Service:	Kidz Demesne		
Address of Service:	Longford RFC, Lisbrack, Co. Longford		
Eircode:	N39 EK28		
Name of Registered Provider:	Sinead Cawley		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	13/05/2026		
No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM NA
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.		
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan		
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).

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Description of service

Kidz Demesne was established in 2023 as a privately run childcare service for pre-school children aged 2 years to 6 years by the registered provider. The sessional service operates from 9:30am -12:30 hours, Monday to Friday. The service is located in a large room within Longford Rugby Club. The service includes a large care room with adjoining sanitary accommodation, storage room and a kitchen. There is access to a large enclosed outdoor sports pitch located to the side of the premises for daily outdoor play.

Staffing

Kidz Demesne employs four childcare staff including the registered provider all of whom work directly with the children. On the day of inspection, there were three staff present.

All adults working directly with the children in the service have completed 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 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.

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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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider it was determined that one adult had been employed since the previous inspection.

The staff record was reviewed.

(2)

(a) Two written and verified past employer references were available in respect of the adult employed whose staff file was reviewed.

(b) Not applicable as the references were from past employers.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable, as no adult had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.

(4) The adult employed to work directly with children attending the service and held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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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.*
- (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) There were ten children attending the service being supervised directly by three staff members during the inspection.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to on the day of the inspection.

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:*
- (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;*

Compliance Information

- (1)(f) There was a health care plan in place for a child attending the service who may require medication to be administered for a health condition. The registered provider demonstrated understanding of this requirement.

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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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The adults working with the children spoke and interacted with them to in a kind and respectful manner. The children's first names were used; appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were observed being used during all interactions. The staff members demonstrated an awareness of the prohibited practices when managing children behaviour.

The adults were familiar with each child and their personality.

Healthy eating was encouraged and the service had a healthy eating policy. The service was part of the 'Bia Blasta' programme and served a healthy snack to the children. This included, ham, cheese, crackers, rice cakes and wheaten bread. A fruit platter which included slices of orange, apple, chopped grapes and raisins was also served and children could choose what they wanted to eat. Additional portions were available for any child who wanted extra. Water and milk were provided for drinks. The staff members sat with the children at snack time and encouraged social interaction and conversations.

Children's drinks were placed in easy reach for each child to access if they felt thirsty.

The children were encouraged to be independent as they managed their personal belongings.

Children's toileting was managed in a sensitive and positive manner. Independence was encouraged and assistance was given when needed.

The care room was well resourced to promote choice and enable the children to enjoy child led experiences. Children's emerging interests were observed and incorporated into the short term curriculum. Artwork, songs, music and reading materials were used to support and extend the children's learning about their expressed emergent interests.

Transitions were well managed by the staff members in the service. There was a predictability to the children's morning, and the routine was relaxed, unhurried and paced to suit the needs of all children. The children responded positively to this. The children did not go outside on the day of the inspection as the weather was very poor however the children used the astro pitch for outdoor play most days. It is enclosed by a high metal fence and secured by a gate.

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Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection times. Face to face meetings can be arranged for parents/guardians as necessary and email and telephone contact are used as an alternative method of contact.

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:

The entrance to the service was secured and managed by the staff members to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the Early Years' service.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. The staff members advised the inspector that they immediately cut/chop any food that may pose a choking risk to a child at snack time. Necklaces and chains are removed if a child is observed to be wearing them.

There was documentary evidence available that indoor and outdoor risk assessments were completed daily to ensure a safe play and work environment for the children and staff. The service had a system in place to manage maintenance issues.

Infection Control:

The staff members supervised the children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. Staff members were observed washing their hands during the morning.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Foot pedal bins were available in the care room and the sanitary areas for the disposal and containment of tissues and other waste.

Nappy change facilities were provided.

Cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environment which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. The staff members were familiar with the required practices when administering medication in the service. There were no children attending who required medication to be administered while attending the service.

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Safe Sleep:

A comfortable rest area was available in the care room for any child who wished to have a rest or take a break from activities for a while.

Fire Safety:

The staff members were familiar with the fire evacuation procedures from the service. Fire exits were not obstructed. Fire assembly signage was displayed in the outdoor area.

Outing:

The registered provider stated that the service does not conduct outings.

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 a person who was trained in first aid response (FAR) present and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)

(a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the service.

(b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available at all times to the staff members caring for the children attending the service.

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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) A written record was available of fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 21 April 2026.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The firefighting equipment was serviced on 5 September 2025, and the smoke alarm were last serviced on 19 September 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2027. The insurance provided cover for 22 children.