

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

Tusla I.D:	TU2023LD001							
Name of Service:	Kidz Demesne							
Address of Service:	Longford RFC, Lisbrack, Co Longford N39EK28							
Email Address:	kidzdemesne@gmail.com							
Name of Proposed Registered Provider:	Sinead Cawley							
Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed service type:	Sessional							
Proposed Number of Children:	22 Children							
Outcome of the F06 Inspection (e.g. type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)	Sessional service to cater for children from two years eight months to five years six months to operate from 09:00hrs to 12:00hrs with 2 staff to be employed.							
Registered service:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children							
Date of Inspection:	0	9	0	8	2	0	2	3
Inspection Undertaken by:	A. Kennedy							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							
Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.							

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Rationale for Inspection

Proposed New Service

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Sessional Service for 22 Children
Date of Registration:	22 nd August 2023

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	<p>This proposed sessional service is located within a short distance of the town of Longford. The service is proposing to provide an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional care programme. A school aged programme is also offered.</p> <p>The service is operated from a large room adjoining the local rugby club. It is proposing to cater for children from two years eight months to five years six months from 09:00hrs to 12:00hrs Monday to Friday for ECCE children</p>
Premises	<p>The service has a playroom, an office, a storeroom, a kitchen and sanitary accommodation. There is access to a large enclosed outdoor play area located to the side of the premises where children have access to outdoor play.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named person able to deputise. A relief person will also be recruited to cover in event of staff absence. It is proposed that two staff work in the pre-school service. The two staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 7, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education.</p>
Methodology	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under two themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the Child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to the registering application. 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.</p>
Acknowledgement	<p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and staff member who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise as required.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency..

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) It is proposed that there will be an adequate number of staff working directly with the pre-school children. It is proposed that there will be a maximum of 22 children at any one time, with two staff working directly with the children. The two staff, hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 7, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The registered provider advised that a relief person will also be available in event of staff absence and this person holds a level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

(8)(c) It is proposed that the registered provider will not operate the service single-handedly.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations,

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph applies, shall ensure that—

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The design, organisation, and resourcing of the newly developed room environment would be able to support each child's wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service.

The playroom was designed and arranged to maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter, divided into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support proposed children's play, development, and learning, give all proposed children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development.

The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was thereby readily accessible to the proposed pre-school children.

The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, they were designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.

Materials and items of interest included art and craft materials including, scissors, paints, paint brushes, crayons, coloured pencils, art trays and bibs. There were games, puzzles, connectors, links, reels, and threading materials. There were stacking and hammering items, transport vehicles, and tracks.

There were, animals, and small world items. There were plastic and wooden blocks., musical instruments, and a large dolls house with play accessories. There was shop registers with play money and food items, real and small world items. There were dolls, cots, pushchairs, and highchairs. There was a selection of books in library shelving units. There was a play kitchen with food items, cleaning items, pots, cutlery, crockery, and kitchen utensils. There were irons and ironing boards. There was a construction bench with play tools. There was a dress up area with dress up clothes and play accessories.

(1)(b)

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	<p>A rest / quiet area was provided in the room, in the form of a child sized couch which converted into a bed, footrests, mats, cushions, and blankets to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to.</p> <p>(3)(a)</p> <p>Outdoor area</p> <p>The service had access to a large all weather surfaced area to the side of the premises. The registered provider advised that the children would have the opportunity to be outside as often as possible, in all weather conditions.</p> <p>The outdoor area was surrounded by fencing, and gates. The registered provider advised that the children would be provided with balls/rackets/hoops and physical activity materials.</p> <p>This area is securely fenced to prevent unauthorised access and prevent unauthorised entry.</p>
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Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services

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.

Requirement met:	<p>The service had a healthy eating policy.</p> <p>It is proposed that parents and guardians will provide food for their child’s snack time.</p> <p>Drinks of milk and water will be offered for each child’s meal / snack time.</p> <p>A drinks table will be available in the room to allow the proposed children the opportunity to self-serve their drinks.</p> <p>A refrigerator in the kitchen provided suitable refrigerated storage for individually packed lunches.</p> <p>The registered provider advised that the service will also provide crackers, a selection of fruit and cheese if a child does not have a lunch. Water will also be provided by the service.</p>
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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.

Requirement Met:

This requirement has been met.

The service was observed to have undertaken taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending;

GENERAL SAFETY:

- Waste disposal facilities were inaccessible to the preschool children.
- The entrance door of the pre-school service was secured on arrival to the service with buzzer system in place and remained secured throughout the inspection thus preventing children from exiting and unauthorised persons from entering the premises.
- Locks were provided on the metal side gates in the outdoor area to prevent a child from exiting and unauthorised person from entering the area.
- Cleaning products were stored in a locked press in the cleaning press in the kitchen and in the office which were inaccessible to the preschool children.
- There were no trailing flexes in the service.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- The certificate of installation of the air conditioning system was completed on 20/01/23.
- A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance were kept for all of the children, that will be attending the pre-school.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing without risk of scalding the children, was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- There were records of a regular pest control system with evidence of a recent visit on 17/07/2023.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There was a documented risk assessment system for the indoor and outdoor play areas. The service had a risk assessment system for checking that toys and equipment were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.
- The registered provider clearly identified to the early years' inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.
- There were no pits or ponds in the outdoor area to cause any risk of danger to the proposed pre-school children.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.

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- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The registered provider advised that the outdoor play equipment would be cleaned prior to/ after a child's use, with documented records maintained.
- A refrigerator was provided in the kitchen for the storage of perishable foods.
- The room was observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows and doors left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- The ceiling mechanical ventilations covers, in the sanitary areas were kept in a clean condition.
- The registered provider had a cleaning schedule template for the materials, equipment, and furnishings in the room.
- Personal protective equipment was available to the adults if required.
- Foot pedal operated lidded bins were provided in the service for the disposal of waste.
- The water in the sanitary areas was thermostatically controlled to ensure effective hand washing. The temperature taken on the day was 32.3°C which is within the recommended range of maximum 43°C for effective handwashing.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:

- The adults present demonstrated clear knowledge of safe practices regarding the administration of medication.

FIRE SAFETY:

- All exit routes from the service were free from obstruction during the inspection.

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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 is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- (1) Two staff members working in the service had up to date first aid responder training completed with an expiry of November 2024 and July 2025.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box with content items in date was stored on a hook in the kitchen, thereby in an easily accessible conspicuous position.

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.

Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

- (1)(a) A sample record of the monthly fire drills were available in the playroom.
- (b) A record of maintenance of firefighting equipment and the fire alarm confirmed that the service was conducted on 16th of September 2022.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in the playroom which confirmed the location of the fire assembly point in the service. The fire assembly points sign was displayed in the outdoor area.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

The service's insurance has an expiry date 27th of March 2024 for a sessional service for 22 children and a school aged service for 25 children.

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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,
- (b) safe and secure,
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities

Requirement met:

- (a) On visual inspection, the building structure appears to be sound with no visible deficits seen.
- (b) The preschool room and the outdoor play areas were safe and secure.
- (c)
Lighting:
There was natural lighting in the room with three high level openable windows on one outer wall. The proposed room was well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors. The artificial lighting provided was shatter proof.
- Heating
The air conditioning system had a thermostatically controlled thermostat to allow the recommended room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C. A record of the most recent servicing of the heating system on the 20/01/2023 is available in the service. On the day of inspection, the proposed room temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Ventilation
The proposed room was adequately ventilated by means of the openable windows and there was an openable window in one of the toilet cubicles and mechanical ventilation provided in the second children’s sanitary cubicles. Mechanical ventilation was also provided in the staff sanitary accommodation.
- (d) The premises were clean with cleaning schedules and cleaning recording templates in place for all areas of the service. Waste bins for the temporary storage of refuse were located at the side of the premises which was inaccessible to the children when playing outdoors.
- (e) Two sanitary facilities are provided for the children with a toilet and wash hand basin provided. Liquid soap is provided for hand washing. A nappy changing area with a wash hand basin and foot operated pedal bin for nappy disposal is also provided to accommodate the younger child.
- The adults are to use a separate sanitary unit with a toilet and wash hand basin designated for use by the adults.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Adequate floor space was provided in the proposed room for the free movement of children to work and play.
- (2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children.
- (3) The floor space measurement of the proposed room was 49.49 square meters, thus indicating a maximum of 27 pre- school children can be accommodated on a sessional basis, therefore, a minimum of 1.81 square meters of clear floor space will be available for each child proposing to attend the sessional service.

A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are no more than 22 children are in a room in the service at any one time.