

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report School Age Services

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023MH007SA
Name of School Age Service:	Kidz-R-Kidz Childcare
Name of Registered Provider(s):	Niamh O Reilly
Address of School Age Service:	Unit 2 Churchview Ratoath Co Meath
Eircode:	A85 V220

Date(s) of Inspection:	15 January 2025
Number of school age children present during inspection:	PM 23
Registration status:	Registered
Conditions (if applicable):	Not applicable.

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate	Early Years Inspectorate 180-189 Lakeshore Drive Airside Business Park Swords, Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	M. McDonnell
Title:	Early years inspector

Authority to Inspect
Tusla's 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:

The registered provider operates two services in Co Meath. Kidz R Kidz is located in a ground-floor, converted retail unit. The service provides care to children aged 4 to 12 years old. An afterschool club is provided from 1.00 to 7.00 pm during term time. The service is registered to operate from 8.00 to 6.00pm during non-term time. There is an outdoor area available in the vicinity of the service. A small kitchen area and sanitary facilities are available onsite.

Staffing:

The registered provider works in the service when required. The registered provider employs three staff members to work directly with the children.

Additional Information:

This inspection was triggered following information received by the Inspectorate.

Legislation

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of School Age Services in Ireland, and its role is to promote and monitor the safety and quality of school age care provision in accordance with the following legislation:

- The Child and Family Agency Act 2013, Part 12.
- Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2022.
- The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018).

A school age service means any early years service, play group, day nursery, crèche, day-care or other similar service which:

- a) caters for children under the age of 15 years enrolled in a school providing primary or post-primary education,

- b) provides a range of activities that are developmental, educational and recreational in manner, which take place outside of school hours, the primary purpose of which is to care for children where their parents are unavailable, and
- c) the basis for access to which is made publicly known to the parents and guardians of the children referred to in point (a) above.

It is the responsibility of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of school age children and the above legislation authorises Tusla to assess compliance with the Regulations.

Inspection Methodology:

The inspection is unannounced to assess compliance with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Registration of School Age Services Regulations 2018 (S.I. 575 of 2018), Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Registration of School Age Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2022, and the Child Care Act 1991, Section 58 as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

The findings on inspection are gathered through a triangulation method, including:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation.
- Direct observation.
- Discussion with relevant staff.

This inspection aims to determine the extent to which service is appropriate for the care, safety, and wellbeing of children in accordance with the regulations cited above.

Inspection findings are documented in the School Age Services 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 corrected the non-compliance and how they will prevent them 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 CAPA 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.

Acknowledgements:

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the children, registered provider, person in charge, and staff who were present on the day of inspection.

Summary of Findings:

On the day of inspection, the registered provider was found to be compliant in:

- Regulation 8(1)(a)(b)(c): Vetting disclosures;
- Regulation 9(1)(2)(4): Staffing levels;
- Regulation 10: Policies etc. of school age service;
- Regulation 12: Insurance;
- Regulation 13(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(3)(a)(b): Complaints;
- Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

On the day of inspection, the registered provider was found to be non-compliant in:

- Regulation 8(1)(d)(2): Vetting disclosures;
- Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013.

Conclusion and follow up actions:

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their preventive and corrective action plan, have addressed the non-compliances identified on inspection.

Regulation 8: Vetting disclosures

(1) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service 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.

(2) The procedures specified in paragraph 1 shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the school age service.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1)(a)(b)(c)

The staff files of the three staff members were reviewed. Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the three adults and these were dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate for the renewal of Garda Vetting. There were two written and validated references available for each of the staff members.

Regulatory Requirement not met

(1)(d)

A review of one staff member's documentation demonstrated that police vetting was required. This police vetting was not available.

(2)

The registered provider had not ensured that vetting procedures had been completed prior

to staff being employed and working directly with the children as the required documentation was not in place.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)(d)

The registered provider provided the outstanding police vetting.

(2)

The registered provider stated they would ensure that police vetting was obtained before employing future staff.

Summary of Findings

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their preventive and corrective action plan, have addressed the non-compliance in relation to police vetting.

Regulation 9: Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of competent and suitable adults on the premises while the service is operating.

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph (1), a registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that there is a minimum ratio of 1 adult to 12 children at all times while the service is operating.

(4) A registered provider of a school-age service shall ensure that the school age children attending the service are appropriately supervised at all times.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1)(2)(4)

There were 3 staff members working directly with 23 children. The children were supervised in one large room and staff interacted with the children as they completed activities such as homework, colouring and having their snack.

Regulation 10: Policies of a school age service

A registered provider of a school age service shall ensure that the policies and statements specified in Schedule 6 are in place for the service.

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service's managing behaviour and complaints policy were reviewed. These documents contained required information as per Schedule 6 of the regulations to support staff in their practice.

Regulation 12: Insurance

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

Regulatory Requirement Met

The service was insured to provide care for 45 children. The insurance was valid from 3 September 2024 to 27 March 2025.

Regulation 13: Complaints

- (1) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies—*
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*
- (2) A registered provider of a school age service other than a childminding service shall ensure that—*
- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the school age service, and*
 - (b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.*
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall—*

(a) include the nature of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with, and

(b) be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.

(4) A registered provider of a childminding service shall ensure that the parents or guardians of children attending the service are aware of the service's complaints policy.

Regulatory Requirement Met

(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(3)(a)(b)

The complaints policy detailed the procedure for making a complaint and how verbal and written complaints would be dealt with. The policy referenced how a complainant would be kept informed of the complaints procedure and the appeals process.

The registered provider informed the inspector that there had been no written complaints.

Child Care Act 1991, Section 58(G) as amended by Part 12 of the Child and Family Agency Act, 2013

It shall be the duty of every person providing an early years service to take all reasonable measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending the service and to comply with regulations made by the Minister under this Part.

Regulatory Requirement Met

During the inspection, the inspectors observed the health, safety and welfare of children being supported by the following:

- On the children's arrival to the service, staff were observed asking each of the children what they would like for their snack. A sample of children spoken with discussed the activities that they liked and that staff facilitated the requests for activities.
- Following their snack and completing homework children were observed to freely choose the activities they wanted to participate in. This included colouring, playing games and chatting with their friends. Activities had been planned to support the children, for example, a large jigsaw had been left for children to complete when they wanted to support quiet play whilst other children did homework.

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- The staff members were observed to constantly engage with the children throughout the session, discussing children's activities and their days. The staff members discussed positive ways in which they dealt with disagreements between the children and staff were aware of the service's behaviour management policy. Staff were also aware of how to support children's individual needs.

Regulatory Requirement not met

- The registered provider did not ensure that the staff team received training to support them in the care of the children. The service's safeguarding policy stated that all staff would have training in child safeguarding. There was no documentation to demonstrate that staff had undertaken this training.

Corrective & Preventive Action Response submitted by the Registered Provider

- The registered provider submitted the training certificates for staff members and stated a plan for training staff was in place.

Summary of Findings

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider, in their preventive and corrective action plan, have addressed the non-compliance in relation to staff training.