

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023WX001
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Name of Service:	Kids Korner
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Address of Service:	Newbawn, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y35 KF59
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Name of Registered Provider:	Liz Dillon
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	27/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate. Ely hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
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

Kids Korner provides an Early Years Care and Education Programme (ECCE) to children from 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday for 38 weeks per year. The service is operated from a converted premises next to the registered provider's home. The service consists of a large preschool room a kitchenet, an office, toilets and a large outdoor area which has been extensively developed as an outdoor play area. The service is also registered to provide a school age service. The registered provider also provides a full day care service close to this sessional service in a nearby housing estate.

Staffing

There are four staff employed in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. All staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 10 Policies and Procedures,

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child (1) (a)

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Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,

Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),

Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4).

Regulation 28 Insurance

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 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

(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*

(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)(b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge on the day of inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. There was a person available to deputise and the staff rota indicated these staff were rostered to work when the service was in operation.

Following a review of documentation and a discussion with the manager it was confirmed there were four staff employed in the service. All staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

All required written and validated references were available on file in the service.

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(c)

There was a Garda vetting certificate available on file for all staff working in the service. The service has demonstrated compliance with the requirement to have all staff Garda vetting renewed every 3 years.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in a state other than Ireland as an adult for longer than a period of six consecutive months.

(4)

All staff working directly with the children held a qualification at level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

There were written policies, procedures and statements, as specified in Schedule 5 available for the service. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the policy on the management of accident and incidents in the service and behaviour management. These policies and procedures were complete and specific to the service.

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.

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Compliance Information

(1)

There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service for the duration of the inspection.

(3)

At 11.00am

There were 17 children between 3 and 6 years of age in the care of 3 members of staff.

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 registered provider ensured that each child's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of appropriate activities during the inspection including eating together and enjoying free play in the outdoor area.

Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development for example, when packing up to go home children were encouraged to put on their own coats and gather up their lunch bags themselves.

The preschool room was well laid out and resourced with adequate materials and equipment. There were jigsaws, small world animals, plastic bricks and miniature cars and diggers. Areas of interest such as the home corner were well developed and resourced with play equipment such as miniature cooking equipment for the children. Of particular note was a pair of large, comfortable leather couches where children could rest on very similar to a comfortable home environment.

The children were observed going out to play in the outdoor area on the day of inspection. Staff who spoke to the inspector said that outdoor play was a favourite activity for the children in the service. The inspector observed that parents had provided the children with good quality waterproof outdoor gear for the children to wear in the

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outdoor area. This gear included fleece lined overalls and jackets. Children were encouraged to put their gear on themselves in a covered in area with a bench in the outdoor area. Children were given help when required. The outdoor area was developed to facilitate free play for the children. There were goal posts, a large wooden tractor and trailer made of wood that children could climb on, there was a large jungle gym for children to climb on and slide down, there was a supply of ride on toys and go carts and a swing for children to play on. Staff were observed to be constantly engaged with the children in their care in the outdoor area, initiating games and intervening promptly in any minor disputes between children.

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:

Access to the service was gained through the front door which was made of glass. There was a fence around the front entrance. This fence separated the entrance from the car park. Staff could see who was seeking to gain access to the service. The fire doors were not obstructed.

Infection Control:

The service appeared to be clean and in good repair on the day of inspection. Cleaning templates were available in the service to document the regular cleaning of the preschool room and toilet areas. There was a large fridge available in the kitchenette to store the food which was provided by the parents. All sinks for hand washing in the service were equipped with warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and pedal bins. The temperature of the hot water flowing from the wash hand basin in the toilet area was recorded at 35°C on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

There was a large sand box in the outdoor area which the children were observed digging in on the day of inspection. There was no adequate cover available to cover the sand box when not in use by the children. This posed a risk of cats using the sand box as a litter tray.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The service has reviewed their Infection Control policy and considered the importance of covering the outside sandbox. Management will perform regular checks on the sandbox and ensure its covered in the evenings. A large Tarpaulin has been purchased cover for the sand box when not in use by the children.

Supporting documentation submitted

A photograph of the tarpaulin now in use in the service was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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 trained in a first aid responder course available to the children on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool service.

Non-Compliance Information

There was only one staff member trained in a first aid responder course working in the service. This was not sufficient to cover the roster in the service if this staff member was off duty.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service has reviewed their first Aid policy to ensure there is always a member of staff on the premises who is trained in a first aid responder course. A further three staff members have been booked to attend a first aid responder course to comply with this requirement.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the receipt confirming the booking for a further three staff members to attend a first aid responder course was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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.*

Compliance Information

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place in service in February 2026.

(b)

There was a record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment available in the service. This maintenance was carried out in January 2026. The annual service of the smoke alarm was carried out in service in March 2026.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position at the main entrance of the service.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was insurance in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.