

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:	25/10/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

Kids Korner was recently registered to provide a sessional service to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service 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 providers home and consists of a large early years room a kitchenette, an office, toilets and a large outdoor area which has been extensively developed as an outdoor play area. The registered provider is also registered to provide a school age service at this address and a full day care service close to this sessional service in a nearby housing estate.

Staffing

The service employed a total of three staff, 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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

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

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),
Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child (1) (a),
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, 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

(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 the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)
Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were three staff employed in the service. All three staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)
There were four written and validated references available on file from past employers.

(b)
There were two written references available on file from reputable sources for the registered provider which did not need to be validated.

(c)
There was evidence of Garda vetting available on file in the service for all three staff members.

(d)
Police vetting was not required as no member of staff had worked in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)
All staff working directly with the early years children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 was at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the early years children.

(3)
At 10.40am there were 15 children aged between 2 and 6 years of age in the care of 3 staff.

The minimum ratio of adults to children was always maintained for the duration of the inspection.

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, enjoying free play in the early years room and playing games together in the outdoor area. Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development for example, children were encouraged to use the toilet independently and given help when required.

The room was well laid out with thought and care to the children attending the service. The materials and equipment available included art materials, 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. There was a comfortable rest area made up of leather couches where children could rest on.

During activities staff used opportunities to extend children's learning and development. For example, group games were facilitated in the outdoor area. Children were observed sliding down the slide. When they got to the bottom a staff member would lift them up and pretend to unblock the river to allow the rest of the children's friends to slide down.

At 12.00am 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 priority 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 outdoor area. This gear included fleece lined overalls and jackets. Children were encouraged to put the gear on themselves and given help when required.

The outdoor area was extensively 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 sand pit with shovels and buckets, 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. There was a supply of wooden tree branches which children were observed playing with and using their imaginations to invent games with their friends. There was a large tree with branches which dipped down to the grass. Children were observed playing and running through the branches in groups enjoying the freedom of the area. Staff were observed to be constantly engaged with the children in their care in the outdoor area.

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 registered provider had taken the following steps to ensure the safety of the children attending the service. 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. All radiators were thermostatically controlled. The fire doors were not obstructed.

Infection Control:

The service appeared clean and in good repair on the day of inspection. Cleaning templates were available in the service to document the regular cleaning of the early years 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.

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 first aid for children immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (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.

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)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill had taken place in the service in October 2023.

(b) There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment was last serviced in November 2022, and the smoke alarm in October 2023.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the main entrance of 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 insurance in place to cover the children who were present on the day of inspection.