

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2025OY001
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Name of Service:	Just 4 Kids Crèche
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Address of Service:	Kilmalogue Park, Tullamore Rd, Portarlington, Co. Offaly
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Eircode:	R32 CP80
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Name of Registered Provider:	Catriona Robinson
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	26/06/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	20
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore Co. Offaly
Inspection undertaken by:	R Flynn
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

Just 4 Kids is a private service offering full day care for children aged 0 to 6 years of age. The service is one of three services operated by the registered provider. Just 4 Kids is registered to operate between the hours of 07:45 and 17:45 on a Monday to Friday basis. The Early Years' Service is located in a residential area on the outskirts of the town of Portarlinton, County Offaly. The services operates from a purpose-built single storey building. An outdoor play area is provided to the rear of the service. Three pre-school rooms, sanitary accommodation, a sleep room, a kitchen and an office are provided. Onsite parking and set down facilities are available to the front of the property.

Staffing

The registered provider employs nine adults in the service. The registered provider and seven adults were working directly with children on 26 June 2025. A cook and a cleaner were also available on site. The person in charge facilitated the inspection.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under,

- Regulation 9 (1) (a)(b)(c), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1), (2), (8)(a) – Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 19 (1)(a) – Health, welfare and development of child.

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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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)

A designated person in charge and a named person to deputise were available as required.

(b)

The registered provider was present for the duration of the inspection.

Ten staff files including the registered providers were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers or from a source other than a previous employer in respect of the nine staff members.

Two written references were available in respect of the registered provider.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the registered provider and nine staff members. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was available for two staff members, who had lived outside of the state for a period longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

The registered provider and seven staff members working directly with children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 5 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

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

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.

(2)

The ratio of adults to children was maintained on the day of the inspection.

There were twenty children attending the service being supervised directly by seven staff and the registered provider.

There was one adult providing direct care to five children aged from 3-5 years in the Daffodil room.

There were three adults providing direct care to six children aged from 1-2 years in the Daisy room.

There were two adults providing direct care to nine children aged from 1.5-2.5 years in the Dandelion room.

(8)(a)

There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Meals were prepared and cooked onsite. It is the policy of the service that parents/guardians provide a morning snack for their child. Alternative snacks were available such as yoghurts which were stored in the fridge. Meals were provided at regular intervals. On the day of inspection chicken curry and rice was served for lunch at 12:00pm. Staff sat with the children during lunch time and engaged in conversation and assisted smaller children when needed. Younger children were given bibs for dinnertime. Drinking water was accessible to children throughout the inspection and children were given a drink with their meal. A staff member in the daisy room was observed feeding a baby a bottle of milk on the couch in a nurturing and comforting manner. The children received an afternoon snack at 15:00pm.

Children in the daisy room were observed enjoying free play on the floor with a tuff tray of pasta and in the large ball pit. The staff were observed to be warm and friendly in their interactions with the children using soft tones of voice when speaking with them. Open low levels storage systems were used to display the play equipment allowing the children to easily access the toys. Age appropriate books to support language development were provided in each room. Children in the dandelion room were observed engaging in a selection of tabletop activities and enjoying messy play with a tuff tray filled with rice. Jigsaws, blocks, sorting and matching activities were available and promoted the development of children's fine motor skills. Rest areas were available with soft

matting and cushions. Images of children and their families and a birthday wall were on display throughout the rooms, promoting a sense of welcome and belonging.

Older children accessed the toilet independently during the inspection and staff supported younger children where required. Children requiring nappy changes were changed regularly and when required. Nappy changing was observed to be interactive and a pleasant experience for the infants.

Staff demonstrated kindness and warmth during interactions observed by the inspector. Comfort was offered to children promptly when required. The children appeared happy and content at their play throughout the inspection and were provided with freedom of choice in the materials they wished to use.

An interactive software application was being used in the service which provided information to parents on the child's day in real time. The staff had created family walls in the playrooms with photographs of the children and their families' creating links between the service and home.

Sleep routines were observed to be child led. Children were supported to sleep in the sleep room when required. Staff were observed gently trying to assist a child to sleep in a cot, when the child was not ready to sleep the staff returned the child to the preschool room and waited until after the child had lunch to try again. Children aged two and older were observed sleeping on low level beds in the sleep room. Sleeping children were physically monitored every 10-minutes and written records of these checks were maintained.

The large outdoor area provided a change of environment from the care rooms during the day. Ride on toys, climbing equipment, footballs, swings, slides and climbing frames were available for the children to play on. An outdoor play roster was in place in each room of times when each group had outdoor play throughout the day. A separate fenced off play area for the younger children was provided. The ground surface in the fenced off area comprised of an artificial grass surface which allowed the toddlers to crawl and access the outdoor play equipment comfortably.