

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN028
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Name of Service:	Kavan Kids Kreche Ltd
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Address of Service:	Maple Avenue, The Gallops, Latt, Cavan, Co. Cavan
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Eircode:	H12 A466
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anna McCarron, Rachel Berns
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	21/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	26	PM	26
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Drumalee, Co Cavan. H12 YY84
Inspection undertaken by:	S Mc Kenna
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

Kavan Kids Kreche Ltd is a privately run service in operation since 2006. It provides full day care and sessional services to pre-school children aged 0 – 6 years of age. The service operates a sessional service under the ECCE scheme from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. The service operates from a two-storey building with three care rooms on the ground floor, namely the Baby Room, the Junior Room and the Montessori/Senior Room, with two care rooms located on the first floor - Room 1 ECCE and Room 2 ECCE, both of which were not in use on the day of inspection.

Staffing

Thirteen staff are employed in the service, which includes the two registered providers, a manager, an assistant manager and a cook.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9 Management & Recruitment, Regulation 11 Staffing Levels, Regulation 16 Record in relation to Pre-school Service, Regulation 19 Health, Welfare & Development of Child, Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child, Regulation 24

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Checking In and Out and Record of Attendance, Regulation 25 First Aid, Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures and Regulation 27 Supervision.

The Room 1 ECCE and Room 2 ECCE operating from the first floor of the premises were not in operation on the day of inspection; therefore, they are not included in the scope of this inspection report.

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) The service has named designated persons in charge, who are the two registered providers, and two named persons to deputise in their absence, who are the service manager and assistant manager.

(b) Following discussion with the registered provider and service manager, it was confirmed that when the preschool service was in operation, the designated person in charge or the named person in charge was on the premises.

(c) A management structure was in place, which was clearly identifiable through review of the staff roster, a staff display board and in discussion with the staff team.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on this inspection

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and through discussion with the registered provider and service manager onsite, it was determined that 4 new staff members had been employed since the last inspection. The references on file for 9 staff were compliant upon the service's last inspection; therefore, they were not reviewed upon this inspection.

(a) (b) Of the 4 new staff files reviewed, the following was available;

Six written and validated references from a previous employer were on file.

Two written and validated references from a reputable source were on file.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all 13 employed staff.

(d) Employment records of 9 staff employed were reviewed at the service's last inspection, and regulatory compliance was achieved; therefore, they were not reviewed upon this inspection.

A review of the employment history for 3 of the 4 newly employed staff members demonstrated that three staff members had not lived outside the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, therefore police vetting was not required.

(4) Documentary evidence reviewed at the last inspection for 8 childcare staff, and upon this inspection for 4 childcare staff, confirmed that the 12 staff employed to work directly with children held an appropriate childcare qualification at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications. The cook is not employed ot work directly with preschool children; therefore, a qualification is not required.

Non-Compliance Information

(9) (2) (d)

A review of documentation available demonstrated that the registered provider's had requested police vetting from one staff member. However, the information available on file did not include the required international police vetting certificate.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The required Police Vetting has been placed in the staff member's file. Staff files will be reviewed to ensure all required vetting documentation is available in their files. Where police vetting is required receipt of the completed documentation will be checked and confirmed on the staff member's file.

Supporting documentation submitted

A completed copy of the international police vetting certificate.

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Summary Comment

The response from the registered providers and supporting documentation submitted have adequately addressed the non-compliance in Regulation 9 (2) (d).

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) On the day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspector arrived unannounced and remained so throughout the inspection. The following adult to child ratios were observed:

Two adults cared for 5 children aged 1 year 2 months to 2 years in the Baby Room, all of whom were attending on a part-time or full-day care basis.

Two adults cared for 8 children aged 2 years 1 month to 2 years 8 months in the Junior Room, all of whom were attending on a part-time or full-day care basis.

Two adults cared for 13 children aged 3 years 9 months to 5 years 5 months in the Montessori/Senior Room, all of whom were attending on a part-time or full-day care basis.

The registered provider arrived on site shortly after the inspection commenced. The assistant manager arrived later in the morning and covered in the Junior room when required and prepared the snacks and meal on the day of inspection.

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(8) A review of the staff roster demonstrated that the registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Compliance Information

(1) A record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) Details of attendance of each pre-school child who attends the service.
- (i) Details of weekly staff rosters, detailing daily working hours.

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
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

The following examples demonstrate how children's learning, development and well-being were facilitated in the service:

Basic Needs

Snack time was observed to be relaxed. For morning snack, the children in the Baby and Junior rooms enjoyed chopped pear, orange and croissants, and the children in the Montessori/Senior room enjoyed their own packed lunches from home which included a variety of sandwiches, crackers, meats, cheeses, yoghurts and fruits. The younger children wore bibs at meal times, and staff encouraged children to be independent at snack time, whilst

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also providing supports where needed. The children had access to their drinking cups and bottles throughout the day, which were also taken outdoors at play time and refilled when needed.

Younger children had their nappies changed at set times and outside of these times where their care needs required. Older children were observed to use the toilet independently. Spare clothing was available for the children; aprons were provided for messy play activities. The younger children who required a sleep slept in the morning after their snack time. There were cosy areas set up in each care room to include soft mats, foam shapes and cushions which provided areas for children to rest during their day.

The children in all three care rooms spent time outdoors in their designated play areas on the day of inspection.

Supporting Relationships

The atmosphere upon the inspectors' arrival was warm and welcoming. The children in the Baby room were enjoying outdoor play on rocking toys, sand play and water play, while the children in the Junior and Montessori/Senior rooms were observed to be engaged in play with magnetic blocks, magnetic boards and role play to include dress up and playing in the home corner areas. The children appeared familiar with those who cared for them and were observed to call on staff for support if needed. The staff were observed to promote positive behaviour, and praise was given for positive behavioural interactions between children and their peers. No disagreements between children were observed. Staff demonstrated sensitivity and positive regard for children and their families, through respecting parental requests. The staff were observed to treat each child with respect and spoke kindly to the children within their care. The staff in all three care rooms were observed to consistently engage in floor play activities with the children. Communication with parents is in person at arrival and collection, and also a written daily notebook for children attending the Baby room. Staff advised the inspector that phone calls and digital messaging are also used to communicate with parents. Staff and management were observed to work well together, with clear lines of communication observed. Staff within the care rooms communicated well with one another, ensuring transitions were smooth; for example, lead-in times were given to children for what was coming next.

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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.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

The registered provider ensured all reasonable measures were put in place to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending such as:

Upon the inspectors' arrival, the premises were appropriately secured to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. The garden area was surrounded with walls, fencing and secure gates. Play materials and equipment in the three care rooms inspected were maintained in good condition. Risk assessments were completed and up to date. Floor coverings and stairways were maintained in good condition with no trip hazards identified. Storage areas were inaccessible to the children. External waste bins were stored in an area not accessible to children. Cleaning materials were stored out of children's reach. Fire exits remained free from obstruction during the inspection.

Infection Control:

The inspector observed the following infection control measures in practice within the service:

Thermostatically controlled running water, liquid soap, paper towels and bins were available at each wash hand basin. Hand washing was observed to take place before snack time and after nappy changing times. Nappy changing procedures were carried out in line with the service policy and infection control measures. The care rooms were ventilated with openable windows, and an air conditioning unit was fitted in the Baby cot room. The sanitary areas were ventilated with open windows. Tables were observed to be cleaned before snack time. Cleaning records were reviewed and up to date, and the service was presented in a clean and hygienic condition. Children's soothers were stored in individual labelled boxes.

Safe Sleep:

A cot room was provided for children, which was located off the Baby room. Four cots were available, and 1 floor bed and an additional 2 cots were set up within the Baby care room. The children attending the Baby room slept after their morning snack. Sleep records were maintained for sleeping children. Children were supervised during sleep times in the Baby room.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

- (1) *A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*
- (3) *A registered provider shall ensure that-*
- (a) *no person other than-*
 - (i) *pre-school child attending the service,*
 - (ii) *a person dropping or collecting such a child,*
 - (iii) *an employee, or*
 - (iv) *an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*
 - (b) *a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider used written records which detailed each child's arrival and departure time on a daily basis.
- (3) (a) The registered provider ensured that only preschool children, a person dropping off or collecting a preschool child, an employee or unpaid worker can enter the premises upon the approval of staff.
- (b) A visitor log book is maintained.

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) Following review of staff files and the staff roster, it was evident that the registered provider ensured that there was a member of staff trained in First Aid Response (FAR) on the premises at all times; this was evidenced by 6 staff FAR certificates reviewed, 4 of whom were rostered to work on the day of inspection.

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(2) (a) & (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available on the premises and was stored in an accessible and conspicuous location out of the reach of 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 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

(1) (a) A record of the monthly fire drills that take place was available. The most recently recorded fire drill, accompanied by photos of the fire drills taking place, was on 24 June 2026.

(b) The annual maintenance certificate for the fire extinguishers was dated 7th July 2026, and the smoke alarms were dated 28 May 2026.

(4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed on walls throughout the premises, which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire. The ground floor children use a fire assembly point located to the front of the premises, and the children, when in attendance on the first floor, use a designated fire assembly point to the rear of the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

On the day of the inspection, the inspector observed the staff members appropriately supervising the children in attendance. The staff members worked well together, ensuring that they were positioned adequately to supervise all the children in the indoor care rooms, and while in the outdoor areas, ensuring all children were in sight at all times.