

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS087
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Name of Service:	Kidsbrook Creche
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Address of Service:	94 Colthurst crescent, Lucan, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K78 YH28
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Name of Registered Provider:	Lisa Richardson
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	20/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	16
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Inspection undertaken by:	S Quigley
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Kidsbrook Creche is a full day care service which is located in a residential area of Lucan, South County Dublin. A full day, part time, and sessional service is provided to children aged between 6months and 6years. The service is a purpose-built single-story premises which is attached to the registered provider's own home. Two care rooms and a designated sleep room are provided, and two outdoor play areas are available. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 7:30 and 18:30 hours.

Staffing

The service currently employs seven staff members including the registered provider who works directly in the service day to day. On the day of inspection four staff members were present including the registered provider.

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

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

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.*

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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 registered provider was the designated person in charge during the inspection and a named person to deputise had been appointed.
- (b) The registered provider and the deputising person in charged were present when the inspector arrived on the premises and were rostered to be present for the duration of the service's opening hours.
- (c) A clear management structure was in place in the service and staff members detailed this during discussions with the inspector.

(2)

Documentation required under regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of one adult who was employed in the service and who was not present when Regulation 9 was last assessed on the 9 September 2024.

- (a) (b) There were two references each available for the adult which had been appropriately verified.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all adults employed.
- (d) Not applicable, the adult had not resided outside the state.

(3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) had been carried out prior to the adult commencing employment in the service.

(4)

Documentation reviewed evidenced the adult held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework, or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

Compliance Information

1. An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
2. The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 16 pre-school children attending the service being supervised by four adults during 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-

(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

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed to be in place. Meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly throughout the day. Drinks of water were available within the rooms and were observed to be offered regularly. Mealtimes were observed to be sociable where staff and children sat together chatting. Staff encouraged children to feed themselves and provided support where necessary. Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Staff were observed cleaning children's noses as required and children's hands and faces were cleaned after dinner. Younger children's nappies were changed as needed and older children were observed using the toilet independently with staff providing assistance where necessary.

Areas with soft seating were provided within the rooms where the children could rest or take a break from activities. Materials were made accessible to the children on low level shelving, facilitating their choice of play. Play was child led and children were observed to move confidently around the care rooms and appeared content

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

in their interactions with one another and their environment. During this time staff were observed to be warm, respectful and playful in their interactions with the children. Transitions from one activity to the next were well managed, and children were given verbal indications of the change approaching. Staff stated they communicate daily with parents verbally at drop off and collection times and additionally use a messaging application to share updates and photographs.

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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff, and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. The entrance into the service was appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child exiting the service unsupervised. There were no hazards identified in the indoor or outdoor play environments.

Infection Control:

Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. Cleaning schedules were in place, and the care rooms and sanitary areas were observed to be clean.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspectors and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

Safe Sleep:

Staff demonstrated they were familiar with safe sleep guidance during discussions with the inspectors. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep room, and individual children's observations recorded room temperature,

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Standard cots were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the room where children slept was maintained at the required temperature ranges.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

Some of the practices observed in the service were ineffective for infection control and posed a risk of cross contamination as follows:

1. The pedal operated bin in use for the disposal of soiled nappies was broken resulting in staff members having to handle the bin lid to dispose of nappies. This bin was also utilised to dispose of hand paper towels after handwashing.
2. During nappy changing, staff members did not remove the soiled gloves worn during the change prior to re-dressing the child. This was at variance with the nappy changing procedure in place in the service.
3. In the Baby room children's hands were not washed prior to dinner time. The corrective and preventive actions submitted following the last inspection of the service on 9 September 2024 did not prevent the re-occurrence of the non-compliance.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. A new bin was purchased and staff instructed to inform management of any issues with it in future. Staff were also instructed to use existing separate bin when disposing of Hand Towels.
2. Nappy Changing policy was issued to all staff via email.
3. Infection Control policy was issued to all staff via email. Sign Created and displayed to remind staff of Handwashing Requirements.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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)
An adult trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available to the children on the day of inspection.
- (2)
 - (a) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location within the service.
 - (b) A first aid box was available in the service at all times on the day of inspection.

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 written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system had been serviced within the required timeframes.
- (4)

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous location within the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Documentation reviewed evidenced that the service was adequately insured for the number of children in attendance on the busiest day and the type of service provided.