

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY235
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Name of Service:	Kids Inc Liberty Park
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Address of Service:	Unit 8, Liberty Park, Foley Street, Dublin 1
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Eircode:	D01 X7N0
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Name of Registered Provider:	John Harnett
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	06/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	22
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	JA. McKimm
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

Kid Inc Liberty Park is one of five services operated by the registered provider. The service is located on the ground floor of a residential development in Dublin's inner city. The service is registered to cater to a maximum of 37 children aged 0-6years on a full day care basis from 8.00am-6.00pm Monday to Friday. The service is comprised of three care rooms; Baby/Wobbler, Toddler and Montessori rooms, a cot room, a kitchen, staff room and office. There is sanitary accommodation for all children on the premises and sanitary accommodation for staff is located adjacent to the office. An enclosed outdoor area is located across a pedestrian walkway from the main entrance to the service.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. There are thirteen members of staff employed in the service including the person in charge who works in a supernumerary capacity, a deputy person in charge, a cleaner and ten early years practitioners. On the day of inspection the person in charge, the deputy person in charge and seven early years practitioners were present in the service.

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.

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A sampling process was used to assess compliance under the following:

- Regulation 16 (1)(j), (k) and (3)- Record in Relation to Pre-School Service
- Regulation 19 (1)(a)-Health, Welfare and Development of child
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the baby room, the toddler room, and the outdoor play area.

Regulation 11 was inspected across all rooms.

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 person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN0271	06/07/2026	Room temperatures in all care rooms in the service including the cot room exceeded 18 C- 22 C which is likely to pose a risk to children.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately following the service of the Notice and the provider submitted a detailed response with corrective and preventive actions which were accepted by the Inspectorate. This statutory notice is closed.	

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.

(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 a designated persons in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.
 - (b) The person in charge and deputy person in charge were present when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and remained in the service throughout the inspection.
 - (c) There was a clearly defined management structure in the service. Staff identified the person in charge and deputy person in charge to the inspector.
- (2) The files of thirteen adults were reviewed as part of the inspection, and the following checks were completed.
- (a) There were twenty-five written and validated references available from a past employer.

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- (b) There was one written and validated references available from reputable source.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and thirteen adults. This showed that the service had adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for ten adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to thirteen adults before employment commenced.
- (4) Twelve adults held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Disability, and Equality.

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) The registered provider ensured there was adequate staff available to the children at all times during the day for example seven staff were working directly with 14 children on the morning of inspection and seven staff working directly with 22 children on the afternoon of inspection. The person in charge and the deputy person in charge was available to provide support to the care rooms as needed.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children

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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:

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (j) The registered provider ensured a full record in writing was maintained for medication administration. A sample of 10 records were reviewed and were observed to be complete. All the required information was completed.
- (3) All records and documentation requested by the inspector were available for review.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (k) The registered provider did not ensure a full record in writing for was maintained accidents and incidents. A sample of 12 records were reviewed. Parents/guardians signature and date were missing from four forms sampled. It is important that all forms are completed by staff on the day and seen and signed by parents/guardians of the child on the day of the accident/incident so they can appropriately monitor their child.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (k) All records have been reviewed, completed in full and filed correctly. Staff retraining has taken place, and the Deputy Manager has been assigned responsibility for checking all accident and incident forms daily to ensure they are fully completed before filing.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic and documentary evidence has been submitted.

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Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 16 has been addressed.

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 following observations are examples on how each child's learning, development and well-being was observed being facilitated during the inspection:

Basic Needs

- Children were observed to have the opportunity to move freely through their care room and independently access play equipment of their choice.
- Children were provided with regular meals and snacks, the food served was reflected in the service menu. On the morning of the inspection, children in the care rooms were served a snack of apple, banana and crackers. A hot lunch, provided by an external catering company, of pasta and meatballs was served. Alternative options were available for children with different dietary preference. Drinks of water were offered at all mealtimes to children and were consistently offered to children throughout the day of inspection.
- Children had the opportunity to engage in outdoor play and were appropriately dressed for the weather. Suncream was observed to be applied children in the Toddler room. The outdoor space allowed children to move freely, explore, and engage in appropriate risk taking, supporting the development of their gross motor skills as well as their confidence and independence.
- Staff and children appeared to be familiar with the transitions in the day such as that from play to mealtime to sleep. As a result, these transitions were prompt and smooth.

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Supporting relationships

- Children's artwork, photographs, family walls and birthday charts were displayed throughout the care rooms and service, supporting the children's sense of identity and links between home and the service. In addition, children had their own individually labelled coat hooks.
- The children were supported to follow their own interests, explore their environment and given freedom of choice, while being offered support during activities and transitions.
- Staff were observed to interact continuously with the children. For example, activity times and mealtimes were observed to be a sociable event and staff chatted amicably with the children.
- On the day of inspection, the service operated a two tray play policy during outdoor play area, meaning two trays table with sensory play materials were brought outside for children to play with. This consisted of one table of water play and another with soft tactile balls for sensory play. Staff engaged with children in these inclusive activities extending their learning and vocabulary.
- Staff discussed how parents are welcomed into the service. The inspectors observed staff to chat with parents at drop off and collection time.

Physical and Material Environment

- The furniture provided in the rooms was low level and appropriate for children attending, with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- There was a variety of age-appropriate play materials available to the children to support a range of play experiences such as role and imaginary play, small world play, construction and mark making.
- There was an area in the care rooms where the children could take a break from activities and rest.

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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 outdoor area is secured with fencing and a gate which has a bolt lock fitted on the outside at adult height. This prevents children leaving the outdoor area unsupervised.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely and were not accessible to the children.
- Windows were open throughout the care rooms to allow fresh air to circulate.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.
- Daily risk assessments were observed to be completed in the service.

Infection Control:

- For nappy changing single use aprons and gloves were available, and items needed during the nappy change were stored adjacent to the nappy mat.
- Children's soothers were stored in individual labelled lidded containers.
- Cots and beds were observed to be positioned with sufficient space between them while children were sleeping.
- The sanitary accommodation was equipped with hygienically dispensed soap, hand paper towels and toilet rolls.

Safe Sleep:

- Heavy outer clothing was removed from the children before sleep time.
- Children under two years of age were provided with a cot for sleeping.

Fire Safety:

- On the day of inspection all fire emergency exit doors were clear from obstruction.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice 0271 served.

1. Two safety concerns were identified in the outdoor play area evidenced by:
 - A floor tile letter from the alphabet was missing from the artificial surface in the outdoor play area which posed a trip hazard if a child were to get their foot caught in it.
 - The plastic and metal trim at ground level against the railing in the outdoor play area was protruding causing a potential trip hazard.

Infection Control:

2. On three occasions on the day of inspection children were observed to drink from beakers that were not their own in both the care rooms and in the outdoor area. This poses a risk of cross contamination and infection control. It acknowledged that staff removed the beakers from the children and gave them their own one however these beakers were then placed back on the trays where other children could access them.
3. Children were not observed to have their hands washed before eating dinner after outdoor play. This posed a risk of cross infection.
4. There was a build-up on dirt on the flooring on the artificial surfacing in the outdoor play where young children were crawling which may pose an infection control risk.
5. A build-up of sticky residue was evident on the sand tray lid and on a shelving unit in the Toddler room which may both a risk of cross contamination and infection control.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The damaged area of the artificial surface was made safe immediately. The missing floor tile letter was replaced, the protruding plastic and metal trim was secured, and the repair has been completed. Any hazards identified are reported immediately to the manager, and repairs are carried out promptly by the Kids Inc. Maintenance Team. The Person in Charge will continue to monitor the outdoor environment through regular safety inspections.

Infection Control:

2. A new hydration system has been introduced during outdoor play. Each Key Person is responsible for distributing and supervising the use of their group's labelled beakers, ensuring that every child only uses

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their own beaker. Staff have received retraining on infection prevention and control procedures, and regular supervision and monitoring will ensure that children only use their own labelled beakers. Compliance will be monitored through routine observations and daily practice.

3. Staff were retrained on the Infection Prevention and Control Policy, with particular emphasis on mandatory handwashing before meals and after outdoor play. All staff signed to confirm that they had read and understood the policy. The Person in Charge and the Third in Command will carry out regular observations to ensure compliance with the Infection Prevention and Control Policy. Ongoing monitoring will form part of staff supervision, and any concerns identified will be addressed immediately through additional guidance or refresher training.
4. The outdoor artificial surface was cleaned immediately following the inspection to remove the build-up of dirt. The area was inspected to ensure it was clean and safe for children using the outdoor environment. Staff continue to complete the daily Nature Hazard Check before children access the outdoor area. Routine cleaning and visual inspections of the artificial surface are being carried out to ensure the outdoor environment remains clean and safe, with deep cleaning completed as required.
5. The sand tray lid and shelving unit were cleaned and disinfected immediately following the inspection. All play equipment and surfaces were checked to ensure they were free from sticky residue. Daily cleaning procedures have been reinforced with all staff. The Person in Charge and Third in Command will undertake more frequent visual inspections of play equipment and learning environments to identify and rectify any cleaning issues before they pose an infection control risk.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic and documentary evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

2. Photographic and documentary evidence submitted.
3. Photographic and documentary evidence submitted.
4. Photographic and documentary evidence submitted.
5. Photographic and documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under regulation 23 have been addressed.

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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) The service provided evidence that four adults held up to date First Aid Responder certification and one of which is available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

(2) The registered provider ensured that:

(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were easily identifiable and stored throughout the premises.

(b) The first aid boxes were easily accessible and readily available.