

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD034
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Name of Service:	Kiddies Kingdom
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Address of Service:	Matthews Cross, Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford
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Eircode:	X91 WD63
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Name of Registered Provider:	John Whelan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Day 1 of Inspection:	16/06/2026
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Day 2 of Inspection:	17/06/2026
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No of pre-school children: Day 1	AM	180	PM	164
Day 2:	AM	178	PM	n/a

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Community Care Building Cork Road Waterford City X91 VX09
Inspection undertaken by:	A. Bradshaw L. O'Connor
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Kiddies Kingdom is a privately run childcare service in east county Waterford. The service operates from 2 adjoining buildings with 13 care rooms, 5 sleep rooms, a kitchen, and offices. The sanitary areas are adjacent to each of the care rooms. There are five play gardens located in the outdoor grounds of the premises.

The service offers full-time, part-time care, and sessional care for children aged 6 months to 6 years and operates from 07:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday. It is registered to care for up to 206 preschool children at any one time. The service also offers school age care.

Staffing

The service employs 54 staff to work directly with the preschool children; this includes staff who are not assigned to rooms who accommodate cover for breaks and/or staff leave. There are an additional 10 auxiliary staff including 2 chefs, 2 transport operators, 2 office administrators, a maintenance person and 3 staff in the management role.

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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

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Regulation 9- Management and Recruitment;

Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels;

Regulation 19 – Health, Welfare and Development of Child;

Regulation 21 – Equipment and Materials;

Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child;

Regulation 29- Premises;

Regulation 32 – Complaints.

On inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures and Regulation 30 Minimum space requirements. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance, as a result the scope of the inspection included the Caterpillar, Butterfly, Penguins, Messy Monkeys, Rocky Racoons, Cubs Ladybirds, Jumping Jellyfish and Dragonflies room. 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.

Additional Information

This inspection was triggered by information received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

A referral was made to the Chief Fire Officer on the 19 June 2026 to assess fire safety concerns.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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
Immediate Action Notice IAN	16/06/2026	Evidence of police vetting was not available for one staff member who had access to children. The vetting disclosure must be submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate prior to the person having access to or contact with children.
Status	Action was taken by person in charge immediately following service of the notice and the registered provider submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventative actions which were acceptable to the inspectorate. Evidence was not submitted as the staff left their employment.	
Immediate Action Notice IAN3301	16/06/2026	The sleep room temperature in the Penguins room was 28.9 ° Celsius at 12.08pm while 13 children aged 2-3 years slept. Staff members confirmed that a device to measure temperatures was not available in the room.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately following service of the notice and the registered provider submitted a written response with detailed actions which were accepted by the inspectorate.	
Immediate Action Notice IAN3302	17/06/2026	The fire exits were obstructed in the Butterfly, Penguin, and Racoon rooms. The fire exit, as named on the evacuation plan, was obstructed in the Starfish room.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately following service of the notice and the registered provider submitted a written response with detailed actions which were accepted by the inspectorate.	
Immediate Action Notice IAN3303	17/06/2026	The temperature in the Caterpillar cot room was 23.2 °Celsius at 12:25 while two children under 1 year slept. This posed an increased risk of overheating, which is a

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		recognised risk factor for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).
Status	The registered provider submitted corrective actions which were accepted and addressed the statutory notice. Preventive actions were requested to be submitted through the CAPA process.	
Immediate Action Notice IAN3304	17/06/2026	The fire exit was blocked in the Butterfly sleep room while 5 children aged 1-2 years slept. This posed an immediate risk as it may delay an evacuation in the event of an emergency.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately following service of the notice and the registered provider submitted a written response with detailed actions which were accepted by the inspectorate.	
Immediate Action Notice IAN3306	17/06/2026	The evacuation procedures were insufficient to safeguard children in the event of a fire as follows: 1. There was no means of evacuation for 19 children under 2 years old in the Butterfly and Caterpillar room. 2. The means of evacuation for the 21 children in the Ladybird and Cubs room was inadequate. 3. It was confirmed with the registered provider and staff that monthly fire drills were not carried out. 4. Staff were not familiar with the procedures to follow in the event of an emergency evacuation.
Status	The registered provider submitted corrective actions which were accepted and addressed the statutory notice.	

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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)(b) On a review of the roster and through discussion with staff, it was determined that a designated person in charge was always on the premises. The name of the person in charge and the deputy person in charge was displayed in the main hallway. The names and photographs of the staff team were displayed in the foyer of the service.

Through a review of previous inspection details and discussion with the manager it was determined that 10 new staff had joined the service since the previous inspection in February 2026. In addition to these files being reviewed, 7 outstanding documents required since the last report were inspected.

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- (2) (c) Garda vetting was available for all staff, and the service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years.
- (4) Evidence was available to demonstrate that staff had achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualification Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(c)

Inspectors identified that the governance arrangements and management structure were inadequate, given the scale of the service, to ensure that risks were appropriately monitored and responded to. Following the previous inspection in February 2026, the actions submitted by the registered provider included the creation of three quality liaison posts to prevent a recurrence of non-compliance. However, on the day of the inspection the following was noted:

1. Following the previous inspection, the registered provider stated that management would regularly monitor to ensure sleep checks were completed correctly. The absence of this oversight contributed to an ongoing and increased risk to sleeping children. The findings regarding room temperatures, absence or inaccessibility of thermometers were consistent in each of the six rooms where children slept. Please refer to Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child.
2. Procedures for recruitment were found to be ineffective during the previous inspection in February 2026. This included the absence of police vetting for four staff members. Measures to reduce the likelihood of this known risk re-occurring were not implemented effectively following the previous inspection. Please refer to section Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2) (d).
3. The registered provider submitted assurances through the CAPA process that management would monitor any potential works required within the service. These checks were ineffective to reduce the likelihood of non-compliance reoccurring. Please refer to section Regulation 29 Premises(d).
4. Based on the layout of the service and the number and age of the children, management structures were ineffective to ensure effective governance of fire safety risk. Please refer to Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child and Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures.

(2) (a)(b)

While it is acknowledged that validated references were available in 16 files, a validated reference was not available for one staff member. This had been a previous non-compliance in February 2026 and April 2025. The

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corrective and preventive action submitted by the registered provider stated that a review of all staff files had been completed to ensure all relevant documentation was present.

(d) See Statutory Notice section - Immediate Action Notice IAN 3261.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(c)

The registered provider stated that:

1. A meeting was held with the liaison staff to emphasise the importance of regular sleep check logs, it was agreed that management and the liaison staff would regularly spot check sleep logs to ensure they are completed correctly and any irregularities are to be acted on immediately. A system to monitor the temperature for the office is to be installed. Digital thermometers were sourced and going forward the new monitoring system will support management to monitor safe sleep and react accordingly.
2. A full internal audit of the staff files was completed to ensure there will be no more discrepancies going forward. Going forward at interview stage, prospective staff will be required to provide information on previous work history and if they resided outside of this jurisdiction for six months or longer. This will ensure the required documentation is available for each staff.
3. Management have planned weekly meetings with maintenance personal for updates and a maintenance log has been created to record this.
4. In consultation with the fire officer all fire risk has been eliminated. Fire evacuation cots have been purchased. Weekly check swill be carried out to ensure all fire measures are in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the sleep logs was submitted.

Photographic evidence of the Fire Evacuation cots was submitted.

A copy of the maintenance log was attached.

Evidence of a digital thermometer was submitted.

A copy of a template of the weekly fire check was attached.

Sample of interview questions were submitted.

Evidence of validated reference was submitted.

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Summary Comment

The action and plan submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified and will be assessed on the next inspection.

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)(2)

On day 1 of the inspection, 47 staff members cared for 180 children. On day 2 of the inspection, 46 staff members cared for 178 children. On both days, members of the management team were available for support if required.

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.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

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Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b) The following was observed during the inspection:

Staff and children were aware of the daily routine and plans, with the daily timetable displayed in rooms. Staff managed transitions between activities in a proactive manner. In the Dragonfly room, staff were observed to advise children that they had turned on the timer and there was five minutes left before tidy-up time and they gave a second reminder after two minutes. Children were aware of the routine and helped to tidy the room when the buzzer sounded. When one child began to get upset, a staff member was observed to sit and chat to her and reassure her that five minutes was lots of time to get her work finished.

Positive communication between the staff team was supported using 'day books' where messages were noted. The rooms had an internal phone system which staff were observed to use if they required support. Staff were noted to contact the manager in the office if they had a query.

Children's independence was fostered over the course of the inspection with staff supporting them to problem solve and talking out any issue that arose. For example, children in the Dragonfly room were observed to choose their own seats at snack time and children moved chairs around the room to suit themselves. One child was observed to catch their finger in a chair and the staff spoke to them at their level, checked they were OK and discussed what they could do so that little accident would not happen again.

Staff were caring and responsive to the children's needs. A staff member was noted to turn, bend and cuddle a child who had wrapped their arms around their legs - and asked, 'you all good?'

A child who was taking their time enjoying their dinner was reassured there was no rush and to put their plate on the sink whenever they were finished.

At collection time, staff were observed spending time with parents and giving them a verbal run down of the children's day. Staff outlined how they use an online application to communicate with parents and how parents can make an appointment to speak to staff or management if they need more time or privacy.

Staff interactions with children were familiar and there was a sense of fun. In the afternoon, the children in the Dragonfly room were noted to pretend play with a staff member as they sat on the floor and said they were doing their make-up. They were observed to use the art brushes and paint palettes.

Care practices in the Penguins, Messy Monkeys and Rocking Racoons rooms were observed to be responsive and child centred. Staff members spoke to children in reassuring and playful tones throughout the two days. They remained close by the children while they played and provided comfort when needed. The transition to sleep was observed to be calm and the staff members warmly transitioned children to sleep by rubbing their arm, head or back. Following sleep, staff members acknowledged the children who required additional time to waken and

provided them with comfort until they were ready. These practices were reflective of the service's safe sleep policy which described sleep to be child led and outlined the role of the staff members for children during this time.

Within the Caterpillar and Butterfly rooms, positive relationships were supported through responsiveness to the children's needs. For example, when children woke up in the adjoining sleep rooms, the staff members attentively and warmly brought the child back into the care room. They spoke to the child in soft tones asking if they enjoyed their nap or playfully recognising that they were still sleepy. These practices were observed at mealtimes and during nappy changes. These responsive care practices support the development of positive relationships and support the child's sense of knowing what to expect.

The outdoor play practices observed were reflective of the service policy which described the importance of outdoor play and how children have daily access to it. Children in all care rooms were provided with many opportunities to play outside during the inspection. The outdoor area was sub-divided into sections for the children. Within each area, there was varied equipment and materials appropriate for the age of the children.

(3)

Staff were observed to be gentle and kind with the children in their care. During the morning in the Dragonfly room a child was observed to throw a small toy at a child and the staff member intervened, asked for the toy and suggested a different activity as a distraction. This action was in line with the service Behaviour Management policy where staff would act to prevent potential conflicts. A poster display reminded the children tools to use if they are frustrated, these included taking a deep breath, counting to 10, and thinking about what they are trying to say.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

1. Mealtime practices regarding equipment and materials were not aligned with the service healthy eating policy as follows:
 - a. The tables and chairs in the Penguins room were not suitable for the age of the children. During dinner time on day 1, it was observed that the chairs were too big and eight children's feet did not reach the floor. The tables were too high which contributed to three children being at the same height as the bowl with their dinner in it. The service policy stated that tables and chairs are suitable to children's age and stage of development.
 - b. Children in the Penguins, Jellyfish and Dragonflies rooms were observed to eat their 10am snack from the table. Plates were not provided for the children.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that:

- The table height has been reduced to ensure the children are comfortable and new chairs have replaced the old ones.
- Plates have been provided for all rooms and extra plates are available if required.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Summary Comment

The action and plan submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified and will be assessed on the next inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

Some care rooms were furnished with suitable furniture for the age and stage of the children accessing them. For example, in the Dragonfly room the furniture was laid out in a manner which defined areas of interest and the floor mats created spaces for children to use for larger activities such as construction or train tracks. Accessories for the play areas included items from the children's home, including empty cereal boxes and old mobile phones. These enhanced children's play and staff described how they share ideas about how disused items from home can be reused.

The areas of interest focused the children's play – for example in this room, there was a space called the Hairdresser's, with a waiting area; the accessories to support this imaginative play included bushes, mirrors, clips, and a hair straightener. Staff described how this was the children's favourite space.

The containers used to store the toys were accessible to the children, on low shelving and had additional utensils to extend the children's play. In the Dragonfly room the homemade play dough was on a low shelf with rollers, shaper cutters and pots stored in the one place.

The books shelves were well stocked and displayed near the cubby space in the Dragonfly room.

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Non-Compliance Information

Evidence of ongoing engagement with the Quality Mentoring programme was visible in the work that had happened since last inspection. However, there remained areas for development in the Penguins room and Messy Monkeys room:

1. There were insufficient supporting materials in the home corner in the Penguin's room. This room caters for up to 20 children aged 2 to 2.5 years. In the home corner, there were 8 plastic food items which constituted the layers of a plastic beef burger and three real-life containers. Other supporting equipment was not available. Based on the number and age of the children, the equipment and materials available were insufficient.
2. The equipment and materials which were available to children who did not sleep in the Messy Monkeys room was not sufficient. Staff outlined that each day, the Messy Monkeys care room was sub-divided from 11.10am to 1pm to cater for up to five sleeping children. During this time, the upper section of the room was available for the 16 awake children aged 2.5 to 3 years to play in. There was a lack of resources during this time, as the equipment and materials in the lower section of the room were inaccessible.
3. The rest areas in the Penguins, Messy Monkeys and Rocking Racoons rooms were inadequately equipped to provide the children with a space to rest or retreat to during the day. The floor furnishing in the rest area was a thin foam material. Soft floor furnishings were required to provide comfort for children sitting or lying in the rest areas.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that:

1. More supporting equipment has been added to the Penguins room including real life containers and going forward they will ensure that real life equipment is replaced regularly to ensure good quality equipment.
2. The sleeping arrangements have changed – children in Messy Monkeys room will now sleep in the Rocking Racoons room allowing children who do not sleep access to a room for play. The internal sleep room has been removed on the advice of the Fire Officer which allows more space for children to sleep in a dedicated area.
3. Penguin room now has an enhanced rest area if children require a break or a rest away from the main play area. These areas are being developed in the Messy Monkeys room and the Rocking Racoons room

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Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Summary Comment

The action and plan submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified and will be assessed on the next inspection.

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:

- A weekly roster was available for review by the inspector. The staff sign in and out attendance corresponded with the roster.
- Children's attendance was recorded in a timely manner using an online application.
- The garden to the side of the building was secure and operated with a magnetic locking system and keypad.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of the children

Infection Control:

- Children were observed to wash their hand before eating.
- Warm water and soap were available to support effective hand washing.
- Creams, wipes, and packets of nappies were labelled for individual children.
- The cot mattresses in the Caterpillar, Butterfly, Penguins and Ladybird/Cubs cot rooms appeared in good condition and had a washable covering. Bed linen was observed to be removed from the cots when a child woke and placed into a small box with the child's name on it. Staff outlined that the bed linen was washed weekly, or as required. On inspection, bed linen appeared clean. These practices were reflective of the service's infection control policy.
- Children's soothers were stored in individual containers with the child's name clearly displayed.

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Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Children in Starfish room were observed to use the toilet adjacent to an unlocked external door to the carpark. While it is acknowledged these children were supervised, the exit to the carpark was unsecured which posed a risk of a child leaving the building.
2. A review of 12 accident and incident records took place. Eleven of these records did not demonstrate that parents had been told about the incidents.
3. The flooring in the kitchenette area of the Dragonfly room was lifting creating a trip hazard.
4. There was a trailing cable within reach from a cot in the Caterpillar room where children under 2 years slept. This posed a risk of strangulation to a child.
5. There was an unfinished countertop edge in the Rocking Racoons room at a low level which had sharp edges. Based on the age and height of the children in the room, the countertop edge posed a risk of injury to a child.
6. The nappy changing table in the Jellyfish sanitary area was not suitable for the age of the children. According to the manufacturer guidance, the changing table was for the use with children up to 12 months. The children in the Jellyfish room were aged between 2.5 to 3 years. This posed an increased risk of a fall or an injury to a child.
7. The registered provider did not ensure that monitoring actions were in place following the previous inspection in February 2026 regarding pinch risks. Pinch risks were identified in a child safety lock in the Rocky Raccoon room, an unsecured radiator cover in the Penguins room and the platform of a climbing frame in the garden.
8. The position of a cot in the sleep room between the Ladybirds and Cubs room posed an increased risk of children bumping their heads. The cot was located under a shelving unit. During both days of the inspection, children were observed to stand up in the cot at the same height as a section of the shelving unit.
9. A repair had been made to the cot in the Caterpillar room by affixing a piece of rigid plastic to the top bar. This hard plastic posed a risk of injury to a child.

Infection Control:

10. The way in which beds were stored created a risk of the spread of infection. Throughout the two days, low level beds were observed to be stacked with the children's individual bed sheets intact. This was observed before and after sleep in the Penguins, Messy Monkeys, Rocking Racoons and Jellyfish rooms.

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11. Beds were stored in the sanitary area in the Messy Monkeys room. This posed an increased risk of cross contamination.
12. Hand washing and drying practices observed were inconsistent with the service's infection control policy. These practices posed an increased risk of the spread of infection. The following was noted:
 - Handwashing following nappy changes and children's toileting in the Messy Monkeys and Jellyfish rooms was carried out in the care room, despite a sink being present in the sanitary area.
 - Staff members used baby wipes to clean children's hands and faces following dinnertime in the Penguins room on day 1.
 - A communal hand towel was in use in the Messy Monkeys room.
13. The toilet roll was stored on top of the toilet roll holder in the toilet in the Penguins room. Toilet roll which has been handled poses an increased risk of the spread of germs.
14. The procedures for drying of bed linen in the Rocking Racoons and Ladybird/Cubs rooms were unsuitable. On day 1, the 11 cots in the sleep room between the Ladybird and the Cubs room had bed linen drying on them. On day 1, in the Rocking Racoons room there was two clothes airers with bed linen in the care room and the sleep room. Due to increased moisture, this practice posed a risk of mould growth and respiratory illness.
15. The extractor fan in the sanitary area of the Dragonfly room was dusty with gathered lint and cobwebs.
16. Sweeping brushes were stored within the Penguins sanitary area. The storage of items in a sanitary area poses an increased risk of the spread of infection.

Administration of Medication:

17. The administration of medication records did not include the required signatures. The inspector reviewed nine forms, of which only two included the parental signature to evidence that they had been informed that their child had received medication during the day. This procedure is required by the service's medication policy

Safe Sleep:

18. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IAN3301 served.
19. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IAN3303 served.
20. The procedures, as set out in the service's safe sleep policy, were inconsistently carried out. During the two days of inspection, the sleep practices observed across the seven care rooms which catered for children aged 0-3 years posed a safety risk. The following was noted:

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a. The safe sleep policy stated sleep records were maintained, which included the recording of the temperature in the room. It outlined that a thermometer was in place to ensure that the appropriate room temperature was maintained while children slept. However, thermometers were fixed on a wall/ cabinet over sleeping children and could not be accessed by staff members or the early years inspector. On day 1, the thermometers in the Cubs/ Ladybird room cot room, Messy Monkeys cot room and Rocky Racoons care room were inaccessible.

On day 1, the temperatures of the above sleep rooms exceed the recommended 18-22°C for children over 1 year as follows:

- The room temperature was 23.2°C in the Ladybird/Cubs sleep room at 12.24pm while 12 children aged 1-2 years slept.
- At 12.37pm, the sleep room temperature in the Messy Monkeys sleep room was 24.8°C while 6 children aged 2-3 years slept.
- In the Rocky Racoons care room, the room temperature was 24°C at 12.59pm while 12 children aged 2-3 years slept.

b. In discussion with staff members supervising sleep in Butterfly and Penguins cot rooms, they advised that the room was 18°C. However, the thermometer, which was accessible, was displaying temperature which exceeded the recommended sleep room temperature of 18-22°C for children over 1 year.

- On day 1, at 12.05pm the temperature in the Penguins cot room was 22.9°C while four children age 2 to 3 years slept.
- At 12.29pm on day 2, the temperature in the Butterfly cot room was 24.8°C while five children aged 1 to 2 years slept.

It is acknowledged that the sleep room temperatures were maintained within the required range on day 2.

21. On day 1, in the Ladybird room, the staff member responsible for sleep checks did not enter the room where a child aged 1 years slept. They recorded that the room temperature was 18°C while the actual temperature of the room was 23.4°C. This was not in line with the service safe sleep policy which stated that staff members physically enter the sleep room or the Tusla guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months.

Fire Safety:

Reasonable measures were not taken by the registered provider regarding fire safety within the service. The following was observed:

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22. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IAN3302 served.
23. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IAN3304 served.
24. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IAN3306 served.
25. The sleep room between the Ladybirds and Cubs rooms was overcrowded and posed an increased risk of a delayed response in the event of an emergency evacuation. In total, there was 13 cots in the sleep room for children aged 1.5 to 2 years. These cots were side-by-side with no space in between for staff members to easily access the children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider stated that:

1. There is an external magnetic locked gate outside this exit preventing children from access in the car park in addition to ongoing supervision of children using the toilet.
2. A new online application is being installed which has a safeguard system to ensure parents have the capacity to sign these forms remotely
3. The flooring in the Dragonfly room has been removed.
4. The trailing flex has been secured, and cables will be removed or placed in conduit.
5. The countertop is no longer in use and will be fixed by the maintenance team.
6. The changing table has been removed.
7. A new safety lock has been installed; the radiator cover has been secured and the platform in the slide had been covered. The maintenance team will ensure equipment and materials are in good order.
8. The sleeping arrangement have been altered to allow one dedicated room for sleep creating more room for cots and staff can access the children easily.
9. The cot in question has been removed and replace with an evacuation cot.

Infection Control:

10. Sheets are now stored in the children's own baskets
11. Low beds are now stored in the dedicated sleep room – the Rocking Racoons room.
12. A meeting was held with staff reminding them of the services policy and procedures for hand washing and hand dryers are being installed in rooms.
13. Toilet rolls will be placed inside the casings moving forward.
14. Wet clothes will be air dried outside going forward.

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15. Management will add checks of the air vents to the cleaning lists.
16. Sweeping brushes are now stored in the Penguins room.

Administration of Medication:

17. The new parent online application will have the addition of a safeguarding system to ensure parents sign the medication form- this application is to be launched shortly.

Safe Sleep:

20. Digital thermometers have been installed and a system where management can monitor the rooms temperature in real time. A temporary air conditioning unit has been installed to regulate the room temperature. A permanent solution is being sought regarding air conditioning units. Reflective foil has been put on windows to help with the temperature control.
21. Staff have been retrained in the Safe Sleep policy; this has been updated and displayed on each sleep room with a check list to ensure the correct information has been recorded.

Fire Safety:

25. The rooms have been reconfigured, and the Ladybird room is now a dedicated sleep room

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence has been submitted.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Minutes of meeting was submitted

Administration of Medication:

No evidence submitted

Safe Sleep:

Photographic evidence was submitted.

The updated sleep policy was submitted.

Fire Safety:

Photographic evidence was submitted.

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Summary Comment

The action and plan submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified and will be assessed on the next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(4) While procedures to follow in the event of a fire were displayed throughout the service these did not reflect the actual fire exit routes. In discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that the displayed evacuation routes for four care rooms on the first floor were not reflective of the actual rooms or the exit routes in place.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

No actions were submitted

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of the correct evacuation routes on display was submitted

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified and will be assessed on the next inspection.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non -Compliance Information

(d)

Some of the fixture and fittings were not maintained; this was also non-compliant in February 2026. The actions submitted by the registered provider following the previous inspection did not address this non-compliance. The following repairs and maintenance works were required:

1. Paint was peeling off the wall in the Dragonfly room.
2. In the Penguins sanitary area, a paper towel dispenser was on a shelf beside a toilet cubicle.
3. There was untreated wood in the Caterpillar and Butterfly nappy changing rooms, and in the Penguins sanitary area.
4. There was a ceiling tile missing in the Messy Monkeys sanitary area.
5. The sanitary area for the children in the Jellyfish room and Penguins had unfinished works to the floors. There were exposed concrete and exposed piping.
6. The ceiling in the Jellyfish care room required works to be carried out.
7. Painting was required in the Messy Monkeys care room, Rocking Racoons care room and Jellyfish sanitary area.

(e)

1. The sanitary area the Messy Monkeys room was unsuitable due to the lack of space. A nappy changing unit and toilet were positioned closely together which obstructed children's access to the toilet and the handwash basin.
2. Following the previous inspection, the registered provider provided assurances to the inspector that works were carried on the second children's toilet in the Messy Monkeys room had been completed. However, it was confirmed on this inspection that this toilet was not in use. Children were seen queuing to use the one available toilet.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that:

1. The peeling paint in the Dragonfly room has been covered with wipeable cladding.
2. The paper dispenser was removed.
3. All unpainted surfaces are in the process of being painted.
4. The ceiling tile had been replaced
5. Unfinished floor shave been replaced.
6. The ducting the in the jellyfish room poses no risk t children

(e)

The registered provider stated that:

1. The toilet in the nappy changing area in the Messy Monkeys room will be removed to create more space.
2. The second toilet is now in full use.

Going forward the regular maintenance work will be checked once it's been flagged at the weekly meetings.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Summary Comment

The action and plan submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified and will be assessed on the next inspection.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) There was insufficient clear floor space for the children in the Rocky Racoons room at times. The staff members explained that this care room was divided by a curtain each day between 12 to 2pm to facilitate the children to sleep. On day 2 at 1.50pm, there was 16 children aged 2-3 awake in the care room. Based on the age of the children, 37.6m² clear floor space was required, however, only 32.07 m² was available.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has stated that the internal room has been removed and this space in the Rocky Racoons room is now a dedicated sleep area to accommodate children's sleep needs.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Summary Comment

The action and plan submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified and will be assessed on the next inspection.

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Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the pre-school service, and
 - (b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall-
- (a) include the nature of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with, and
 - (b) be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- The service complaints policy contained sufficient detail to inform potential complainants of the process to follow, how their complaint will be managed and the communication processes during the complaints process.
- (2)(3)
- The registered provider informed the inspector that no formal complaints had been received by the service. They stated that their door is always open and they invite parents to discuss any concerns they have either in person or over the phone. They stated that management and the parents work together to resolve any concerns and as a result matters do not escalate to the point where the parents have the need to submit a written complaint.