

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS033
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Name of Service:	Kiddywinks Montessori
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Address of Service:	41 Rossmore Lawns, Templeogue, Dublin 6W, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D6W KP30
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Name of Registered Provider:	Tania O'Hanlon
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	28 November 2022
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No of pre-school children:	AM	5	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	R. Brien
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

Kiddywinks Montessori is registered to provide sessional care for children from 2 to 6 years of age from 09:00 to 12:30, Monday to Friday. On the day of inspection, the service was operating from 09:00 to 12:00.

The service is located in a suburban, residential area and operates from a separate preschool building to the rear of the registered provider's domestic dwelling. There is a small outdoor play area between the main house and preschool building.

Staffing

The service currently employs three staff members including the registered provider. There were two staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9 (2)(4) Management and Recruitment and regulation 16 Record in relation to Pre-school service (k).

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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

An Immediate Action Notice was issued on 30 November 2022 under Regulation 23 as there were no maintenance records available for the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarm system.

The registered provider submitted a response on 30 November 2022 which addressed this non-compliance.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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*

(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*

(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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2) Following a discussion with the registered provider it was confirmed that one new member of staff was employed in the service since the last inspection on 14 January 2020. Documentation was reviewed in respect of this staff member and met regulatory requirements as follows:

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(c) A Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána was available for the staff member.

(4) A record was available evidencing that the staff member held the required qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a)(b) It is acknowledged that one reference from a past employer was available for the staff member however, there was no evidence available to demonstrate that this had been adequately validated. The second reference on file could not be accepted as it was from the registered provider.

(3) The registered provider did not take appropriate measures to ensure that the employee was suitable to work in an early years service prior to their commencement. There was no evidence to show that the reference available from a past employer was validated prior to the staff member commencing.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff member in question is no longer an employee. All references will be validated in future.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance.

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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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

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

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were five children attending the service being supervised by two adults.

(8)(c) Not applicable, the service is not operated single-handedly.

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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:

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

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

Compliance Information

(h) Details of the attendance of each child in the service were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.

(k) A sample of accident and incidents records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

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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 service had a healthy eating policy in place and staff reported that children bring their lunch in from home. Lunch took place at 10:40 and the child who was named as the daily leader was given responsibility for distributing the children's lunches and drinks. Children were observed engaging in conversation with their peers and staff during their meal and staff supported children who needed assistance with their lunch. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent including using the toilet independently, cleaning up after their lunches and play and putting on their own coats.

Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children in their play. Staff were observed to use distraction when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's positive behaviour management policy. The atmosphere in the service was calm.

The registered provider described how they communicate with parents about their child during arrival and collection times.

Transitions within the service were managed well with the use of songs and the children appeared to be familiar with the daily routine. All children were observed taking part in circle time where they also sang songs.

The care room was arranged to provide a range of play materials and areas of interest including, arts and crafts materials, imaginary play, construction equipment and a library. The care room facilitated a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and was adequately resourced with a variety of

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materials. The materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available. The children's family photos were displayed in the service.

A small, fully enclosed outdoor play area was located between the domestic house and the preschool building and a range of developmentally appropriate play equipment was provided in this area. All children accessed the outdoor area on the day of inspection. Children were observed engaging in gross motor play where they played a throwing and catching game.

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 providers had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

- The entrance gate to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and before meals.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.
- A cleaning schedule was in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials were regularly cleaned.

Fire Safety:

- A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on 23 October 2022.

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Non-Compliance Information

Fire Safety:

An Immediate Action Notice was issued on 30 November 2022 as there were no records available for the maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarm system. The registered provider submitted a response on the same day which addressed this non-compliance.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Fire Safety:

Maintenance records for the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms dated 30 November 2022 were submitted. No preventive actions submitted.

Supporting documentation submitted

Fire Safety:

Maintenance records for the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms were presented to demonstrate the corrective actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance.

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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

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adult and children in the service at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was no one immediately available to the children who was trained in First Aid Responder training. The registered provider was trained in Paediatric First Aid.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has completed a First Aid Responder course.

Supporting documentation submitted

A certificate of completion for First Aid Responder training was presented to demonstrate the corrective action submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective action as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance.