

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL134							
Name of Service:	Kids Cottage							
Address of Service:	78 Church St Skerries Co Dublin K34 WF60							
Email Address:	Kidscottageskerries@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms Jackie Keane							
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒					
Date of Inspection:	2	5	0	5	2	0	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM		32		PM		n/a	
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child and Family Agency 180-189 Lakeshore Drive Airside Business Park Swords Co Dublin							
Inspection undertaken by: Title:	AM Coyle Early Years Inspector							

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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	Kids Cottage is a sessional Early Years' service which offers sessional preschool care and education to children aged from 2 years 6 months until they commence attendance at primary school through an emerging play-based curriculum. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and operates from 9am to 12 midday Monday to Friday.
Premises	Kids Cottage is located in a terraced thatched cottage on a mixed commercial and residential street in Skerries, north Dublin. There are 3 care rooms in the service which are used by 2 groups of children, Pod 1 which is accommodated to the front of the building has access to 2 care rooms and Pod 2 uses a large care room to the rear of the service. Both pods have access to separate outdoor space, Pod 1 uses space in the centre of the building and Pod 2 has access to space directly off the care room to the rear of the building.
Staffing	The service employs 7 staff members including the registered provider who works directly with the children attending the service A relief staff member is available in the service. On the day of inspection there were 6 staff members working directly with the children.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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. 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 areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Person in Charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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, and
 - (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information:

- (1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection and was present throughout the period of inspection.
- Following a review of the service file and discussion with the person in charge it was confirmed that there were two new members of staff, both of whom work directly with the preschool children employed in the service since the last inspection. These two files were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a) &(b) Four written references were available for the 2 staff members whose records were reviewed.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 2 members of staff whose files were reviewed.
- (d) Not applicable as following a review of the staff files there was no documentary evidence that any of the 2 staff members had resided outside of the Irish state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

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	(4) Documentary evidence was available that 1 staff member who worked directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.
Non-Compliance Information:	(2)(a) &(b) There was no evidence available that the references that were available for the 2 staff members had been validated with the person who provided them. (4) Documentary evidence was not available that 1 staff member who worked directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> (2)(a) &(b) All 4 references for 2 staff members were verified by phone by service's person in charge on 26/05/2022. (4) The staff member is doing the last 2 modules with Portobello during the summer months. She has contacted the college to send on her diploma in Montessori. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> (2)(a) &(b) Ensure that all references are verified immediately by person in charge soon as they are presented. (4) Ensure that all documents are double checked and that all qualifications are correct. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> Validated written references for 2 staff members.
Summary Comment:	The inspector accepts the registered providers response in respect of the references. However, as confirmation of the staff members qualification was not submitted the non-compliance under Regulation 9(4) has not been addressed.

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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) *Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—*
(a) 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) There was an adequate number of staff working with the children on the day of the inspection.
- (2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection.
- In **Pod 1** there were 3 adults caring for 14 children aged 4 years 5 months to 5 years 4 months.
 - In **Pod 2** there were 3 adults caring for 18 children aged 3 years 7 months to 5 years 3 months.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff members in the service at all times.

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.

Compliance Information:

BASIC NEEDS:

- The staff members in both care rooms were observed to be very warm and engaging with the children throughout the inspection. The staff members spoke positively and warmly to and about the children and seemed very familiar with the children's individual needs, likes and preferences.
- The children brought their own packed lunches with them to the service. the children enjoyed sandwiches, a variety of fruit and yogurt for their lunch. Lunch time was observed to be a social and engaging time for the children with the staff members and children involved in conversation.
- The children were supported and encouraged to become independent and self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development which included: using the bathroom, dressing for outdoors, caring for their belongings, tidying away after work and play.
- Rest areas were provided in each of the Pods to enable the children to take a break from activities during the day. In Pod 1 a couch and bean bag were provided and in Pod 2 a large couch was available for the children.
- The staff in both care rooms spoke to all children in a positive way and listened attentively to each child. Staff were observed offering choices to children, using the child's name, making eye contact, speaking in a positive tone to all children and facilitating age appropriate choice.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The physical and material environment supported children's learning, development and well-being in the care rooms. The resources and materials in the care room were located on low level shelving to enable the children to take and return materials as they choose.
- Both care rooms were laid out in defined interest areas and were well-resourced with equipment and play materials including well-resourced home corners, transport toys, construction areas, a wide range of table top activities including small world resources and jigsaws in addition to reading materials all of which supported all areas of development. The children were observed enjoying activities of their choosing and moving from one activity to another as they wished whilst being well supported by the staff present.
- Two separate enclosed outdoor areas were available for the children to play in. The outdoor area provided for the children attending pod 1 was situated in the centre of the building and was covered with artificial grass. An enclosed area with a large garage and sensory table was available, a raised wooden platform with steps accessing it was provided in addition to a large

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

blackboard, a small slide and a sand table. A section of the area was covered with rigid plastic to enable the children to access the area regardless of the weather and wooden seating was situated all along the walls for the children to sit at. The outdoor area for the children attending Pod 2 was directly accessible from the care room. During the time the children were outside the door to the care room remained open and the children could move freely between the care room and the outdoor area. The area was surfaced with artificial grass, the area immediately outside the care room was covered with a rigid plastic roof which allowed the children utilise the area at all times. Beneath the roofed area a table with sand, water and soil provided sensory opportunities for the children additionally a blackboard and construction bench were available. In the lower end of the garden, a slide and swing were provided along with a play kitchen and bench seating for the children to sit at. All of the children in the service enjoyed time in the outdoor area on the day of 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:

- On arrival to the service the entrance door was locked and remained locked throughout the inspection thus preventing children from exiting the service and preventing unauthorised access to the service.
- The water temperature in the sinks in the sanitary accommodation was thermostatically controlled and did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding for the pre-school children.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at all wash hand basins. Alcohol-based hand sanitiser was also provided in the service. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed during the inspection; children's hands were washed prior to lunch and after using the toilet. Children were supervised when carrying out hand hygiene.
- The premise was in a clean and hygienic condition. There was a process in place for the cleaning of toys and equipment on a daily basis as evidenced by detailed up-to-date written records.
- Adults were observed to wash their hands frequently and use hand sanitiser throughout the inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	- On arrival to the service the children's lunches were stored in the fridge until snack time. FIRE SAFETY: - Documentary evidence reviewed on inspection confirmed that fire drills are conducted on a monthly basis in the service. The last fire drill was completed on the 28/04/2022.
Non-Compliance Information:	GENERAL SAFETY: - A trampoline which is considered to be inappropriate equipment in an early year's setting was available for use in the outdoor area to the rear of the service. Trampoline use is not recommended for children aged less than 6 years due to safety risks. INFECTION CONTROL: - The bathroom in the service which was used by the children attending Pod 1 was used to store children's resources and equipment. Bathrooms are not an appropriate storage area.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> GENERAL SAFETY: - The trampoline has been completely removed from the service. INFECTION CONTROL: - All storage has been removed from the bathroom. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> GENERAL SAFETY: - All staff have been informed that trampolines are not allowed in the service. INFECTION CONTROL: - Registered Provider has supplied a new storage press in the setting for anything that needs to be stored. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> Photograph of bathroom.
Summary Comment:	The actions as stated by the registered provider in the corrective and preventative actions addresses the noncompliance identified.

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 registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid for children was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. This was evidenced in the staff members' paediatric first aid training records maintained, written confirmation that two staff members held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training and through reviewing the service's staff roster.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid box available in the service was suitably equipped and stored in conspicuous location on the premises and was available for the children in attendance, in the event of an emergency.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises

Compliance Information:

(1)(a) A record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. The records indicated that the most recent fire drill was conducted on 28/04/2022.

(b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The fire extinguishers were certified as having been serviced on 12/01/2022 and smoke alarms was serviced on the 01/03/2022.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.

Additional Significant Risk Identified

Regulation 29- Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are (e)equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Non-Compliance Information:	(e)There was one toilet and 2 wash hand basins provided in the sanitary accommodation used by the children using Pod 1 which is inadequate for up to 18 children who use this facility on a daily basis. One toilet is sufficient to meet the toileting needs of 11 toilet trained children. This was found non-compliant at the last inspection of the service on the 30/09/2020.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> (e) A new toilet has been installed. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> (e) Manager has engaged a new plumber who will facilitate service in a timely fashion. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> Photograph of toilet in bathroom.
Summary Comment	The actions as stated by the registered provider in the corrective and preventative actions addresses the noncompliance identified.