

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018LS506
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Name of Service:	Superkids Childcare Centre
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Address of Service:	De Vesci Court, Fairgreen, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
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Eircode:	R32 XN95
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sandra Lobanovska
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	02/12/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	40	PM	27
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Inspection undertaken by:	K. Murphy & C.O'Connor Hughes
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).	

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable.
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Description of service

Established in 2018 the service is registered as a full day care service. The age range of children that can be enrolled in the service is 1 to 6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). The service operates between the hours of 07:30 and 18:30 on a Monday to Friday basis throughout the year. The service is operated by an independent provider as part of a multiple.

The Early Years' Service is located in a purpose-built single storey premises. Five pre-school rooms, a sleep room, a kitchen, a staff room and an office are provided. An outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the service. On-site parking and set down facilities are available. The service is situated in a residential area on the outskirts of the town of Portlaoise, County Laois.

Staffing

On 02 December 2024 the person in charge, nine childcare staff and the cook were present. The registered provider was not present during the inspection provides a support role between multiple sites.

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.

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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.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the person in charge, 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*

(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)

A designated person in charge and a named person to deputise were available as required.

(b)

The designated person in charge and deputy were present for the duration of the inspection.

Eighteen staff files including the registered provider and two students on work experience were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers or from a source other than a past employer in respect of the staff members with the exception of the non-compliance outlined below.

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Two written references were available in respect of the registered provider.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the staff files reviewed. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4)

Staff members working directly with children held qualifications at levels 5 to 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

A second written reference was not available in respect of one staff member.

Two written references were not available in respect of the two students on work experience in the service.

(d)

Police vetting was not available in respect of one student on work experience.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)(d)

All staff files were checked and updated with vetting's and written references, including work experience staff. The service will ensure that all applications will have two written references and police vetting if required when submitting to the service for vacant positions. (References and police vetting included).

Summary Comment

In respect of the corrective action taken documentary evidence was submitted to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate, reviewed by the Early Years Inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

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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.

(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.

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

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times

Compliance Information

(1)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.

(2)

There were forty children attending the service supervised directly by eight adults.

(8)(a)

The staff roster indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

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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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

(1)

The service kept and maintained written records of information in relation to the service in accordance with Regulation 16 (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(h)(i)(j) and (k).

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

A parent information handbook detailing information in respect of 16 (1)(a) to (g) was available for review in the service.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

The person in charge presented a copy of the of Part V11A (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No.40 of 2013) of the Act and Regulations for review.

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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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The children were supported to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development. Meals and snacks were freshly prepared on site for children attending on a part time or full day care basis. At approximately 12:00 a snack consisting of pasta and cheese with milk to drink was served to the children. The main meal is served in the afternoon and consisted of a soup made with potatoes, vegetables and meatballs. There was good communication observed between the adults and children during nappy changing. Children enjoyed moving freely from one play experience to the next in the pre-school rooms and in the designated outdoor play areas supported by the adults.

Adults were observed to be positive towards children evidenced by individual names used, eye contact and praise for children on completion of activities. Good teamwork between the staff members was observed during the inspection. The children were encouraged to be independent, and their choices were supported. Staff were observed to offer support and praise to each child for their involvement in activities. A handheld device with a software application recorded details relating to each child's daily activities including feeding, sleeping, nappy changing, events and activities. The information was then available to parents and guardians throughout the day. A range of developmentally appropriate, challenging, creative and enriching experiences were available for all children. The pre-school rooms were equipped with low level tables and chairs. Play equipment and materials were accessible to children and individual preferences were accommodated as to what and how long children wish to engage with specific chosen activities.

Materials included paint, play dough, dolls, dolls houses, buggies, puzzles, blocks, trucks, animals and fine motor skill toys including pegboards, jigsaws and shape sorters.

Children's artwork was noted and paper, crayons, paint and a variety of open-ended art materials were in plentiful supply.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(2) A registered provider-

(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016 shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Suitable and adequate play and work equipment were provided indoors and outdoors which included toys and equipment for construction, tabletop activities, arts and crafts and home corners.

(b)

A sleep room was available to facilitate the sleep needs of young children. The sleep room adjacent to the baby/toddler room was equipped with three cots with 50cm space between the cots. Waterproof covers were in place on all cots with fitted sheets and cellular blankets in use. Low level beds were available for children over two years of age to sleep. Soft furnishings provided appropriate rest facilities in the pre-school rooms for any child who wished to avail of rest and relaxation.

(2)(a)

A large outdoor play area was available for the children. Absorbent surface areas were noted at the segregated play areas located adjacent to some of the pre-school rooms. The toys and equipment included slides, toy kitchen, a tunnel, trikes and bikes, benches, table and chairs.

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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 main entrance door to the service was secure to ensure the safety of the children within. A coded system was in place for access to the service. The Inspectors signed the visitors book in the reception area of the service.

Daily checklists were available and reviewed in respect of the pre-school rooms and the sanitary accommodation. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

The premises were visually clean. Cleaning schedules were available. Warm water, hand paper towels and liquid soap was available in the pre-school rooms and the sanitary accommodation. The temperature of the water recorded at the wash hand basins was approximately 40 degrees Celsius.

Children were observed to wash their hands before snacks and after using the toilet. The nappy changing practice observed was carried out as per the displayed procedure.

Soothers were stored in individually labelled containers.

Foot operated pedal bins were available in the pre-school rooms and in the associated sanitary accommodation for the hygienic disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

Temperature reducing medication was available in the service if a child presented with a high temperature. Medication was stored correctly in the service.

Safe Sleep:

A record of the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children was noted in a sleep log. The sleep room temperature noted was 20 degrees Celsius.

Fire Safety:

Fire exit routes were unobstructed in the service. A fire assembly point was noted to the side of the service.

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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)
Two adults were qualified in first aid response (FAR). The staff roster indicated the service had FAR cover from 07:30 to 17:00 hours on a Monday to Friday basis.

(2)(a)
A first aid box was available in a prominent location in the service.

(b)
A first aid box was readily available to children in the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)
The staff roster indicated that there no was adult with FAR training working in the service from 17:00 to 18:30 Monday to Friday. It is acknowledged that the person in charge took a corrective action and submitted a staff roster via email to the inspectorate with FAR cover from 07:30 to 18:30 hours on the 3 December 2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)
All staff's qualifications were checked and the weekly roster was fixed to ensure that FAR certified people are on the premises during opening hours. (FAR certificate and rosters included).
The service will train more staff members in FAR to ensure that there are always FAR trained people available.

Summary Comment

In respect of the corrective action taken documentary evidence was submitted to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate, reviewed by the Early Years Inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

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 firefighting 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)

There was a record of fire drills carried out in the service.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were serviced on the 29 October 2024.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures were noted in conspicuous locations in the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The last recorded fire drill took place on 16 August 2024. Monthly fire drills are required in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(a)

A fire drill was carried out. Fire drill dates have been scheduled for the coming year. (Fire drill record included)

Summary Comment

In respect of the corrective action taken documentary evidence was submitted to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate, reviewed by the Early Years Inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children attending the service and the expiry date noted was 27 March 2025.