

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC240
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Name of Service:	ABC Jelly Beans Playschool
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Address of Service:	Model School, Bantry Road, Dunmanway, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P47 NW66
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Name of Registered Provider:	Diane Beamish
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	06/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, West Cork P81 PD78
Inspection undertaken by:	M. O'Reilly
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	N/A
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Description of service

This is a privately owned early years service in operation since 2015. The service is registered to cater for children from 2 to 6 years offering a sessional service and for the children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The current opening hours are from 9am to 12pm and from 1pm to 4pm each day Monday to Friday. The premises is situated on the outskirts of the rural town of Dunmanway Co Cork. The service operates from a wing of a primary school. There are two playrooms and a third room that is used as an administration office/cum kitchenette. The service has a designated compact secured outdoor play area beside the service, located within the grounds of the primary school.

Staffing

There were four adults employed at the early years setting this included the registered provider who is service based. All the staff were involved in the direct care of the children. Each of the four adults who work with the children holds a relevant award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

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

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 person in charge and named deputy person in charge.
 - (b) The registered provider/person in charge was present when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2) Four staff files were reviewed.
- (a) There were seven written and validated references on file from past employers.
 - (b) There was one written reference available from sources other than a previous employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the four adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) One police vetting record was available on file for the one adult who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more, while over the age of 18 years.
- (4) The four adults who worked directly with the children all held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, or an equivalent qualification, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

- (1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times.

(2) During the period of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations

Classroom 1:

There were 9 children aged between 2 years and 6 months to 6 years with 2 adults in attendance

Classroom 2:

There were 12 children aged between 2 years and 6 months to 6 years with 2 adults in attendance.

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:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.

Compliance Information

(1)(i) Details of staff rosters and meal breaks were displayed.

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

Basic needs:

- The staff members were observed speaking with the children during snack time and using it as an opportunity to enhance social interaction with the children which promoted a relaxed atmosphere.
- The adults were observed to demonstrate patience and kindness in their interactions with the children, as was noted when the children's efforts were readily acknowledged and when children were calmly assisted to resolve minor conflicts.
- Children's toileting and hygiene needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. Independent use of the toilet was encouraged. The staff members were observed to supervise and assist where required each of the children when hand washing and hand drying, and the children were supported and encouraged prior to eating and post toileting.
- Drinking water was accessible to the children within the care rooms outside of allocated mealtimes.
- There was adequate space in the care rooms to accommodate a variety of play activities. A mixture of adult led play and child directed play was facilitated in each room and during outdoor play.
- The children were observed playing outdoors in group and singular play supervised by staff.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- Both rooms in operation were well maintained, child friendly, bright, spacious and laid out with materials largely accessible to the children.
- The playrooms were suitably furnished with child sized tables and chairs.
- Play equipment and materials were stored in child friendly, easy access shelving and units.
- The rooms had a wide range of tabletop activities and games to encourage companionable interaction. There were cars and trucks, different sized blocks and a variety of art and craft materials. a home corner suitably furnished with small utensils to prompt imagination and pretend play.
- There were soft padded floor mats with cushions to sit and relax or to allow a child to opt out of play activities if they so wished.
- Both classrooms had access to a designated outdoor play which was located beside the two rooms which had an artificial grass ground surface and was completely enclosed by a lovely, high, old stone wall.
- There was a playhouse, child size picnic bench, a mud kitchen, a sand container, timber climbing wall and slide and a climbing tower that encouraged the children to master, gross motor skill play.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- On day of inspection the food provided by the parents/guardians for the mid-morning snack were observed to be healthy and nutritious with age-appropriate size quantities of food for example freshly cut fruit such as strawberries, grapes, apple and sandwiches, and yogurts with water to drink.
- The children appeared to enjoy the food provided by their parents/guardians and were afforded ample time to eat and drink at a relaxed pace.

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:

- Cleaning agents were stored out of the children's reach.
- First aid boxes were appropriately stored and inaccessible to children.
- Water temperatures at the wash hand basins were thermostatically controlled, so as not to exceed 43°C.
- Emergency fire exit doors were unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- Suitable handwashing facilities were available across the care rooms. Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were in place. Handwashing by the children was observed before mid-morning snack and after using the toilet. The service provided three toilets and three wash hand basins for the children. The adults had access to a staff toilet and wash hand basin within the national school building.
- Personal waste including used tissues, and all cleaning waste was appropriately disposed of in foot operated pedal bins in the service.
- Perishable foods were refrigerated, in a refrigerator located in the office cum kitchenette room.

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) There were two adults working in the service that had a current certified First Aid Responder certificate (FAR).
- (2)
- (a) There was a sufficiently stocked first aid box available in the service, which was safely stored out of reach of children.
 - (b) At all times when the service was in operation, first aid supplies were accessible to the adults if in the event that a child may require treatment.

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) A record of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place on the 4th September 2024
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment was last serviced on the 16th of October 2023. The emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced on 5th June 2024.

(4)

The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

- The registered provider ensured the service was insured, with insurance for 28 children valid until 27/03/2025. The records detailed the category of service covered, the name and address of the premises and details regarding public liability cover, fire, theft, buildings, and outings cover.