

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS174
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Name of Service:	JADD Project Childcare Service
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Address of Service:	Jobstown Road, Jobstown, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 XK18
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Name of Registered Provider:	Donal O'Connell
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional, Drop-In
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Date of Inspection:	03/10/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	12	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

JADD Project Childcare Service is registered to provide part time, sessional and drop in care for children from 0 to 6 years of age from 09:00 to 13:00 and from 13:15 to 16:30. On the day of inspection, the service was operating a part time session from 09:00 to 13:00. There is no drop-in facility at present.

The service is located in an urban, residential area and is located in two rooms of the JADD premises which is a single storey building. The Creche room caters for children aged 1 to 2 years and the Preschool room caters for children aged 3 to 4 years. The service has use of the garden area of the community centre located next door for outdoor play.

Staffing

There are six staff employed in the service as well as two adults employed to work under a community employment programme. There were five staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection who were supported by the manager.

The registered provider was not present on the day of inspection and does not work directly with the children.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

- 9(1)(a)(b),(2),(4) Management and Recruitment,
- 11(1),(2),(8)(a) Staffing Levels,
- 16(i) Record in relation to pre-school service,
- 19(1)(a)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child,
- 23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,
- 24(1) Checking in and out and record of attendance,

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 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)(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)

The files of eight adults were reviewed as part of the inspection. This included one adult who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 10 November 2022. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b)

Of the sixteen references that were required, eight were available from a past employer and eight were available from a reputable source.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the eight adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was required and was available for one staff member who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4)

Records were available evidencing that six staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

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)

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

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children for part-time services were adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were twelve children attending the service being supervised by five adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a)

There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

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

(i)
The staff roster was available on the day of inspection and reflected the adults working in the service.

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 meals were provided at regular intervals. Children had breakfast on arrival and lunch was served at 11:30. Water was accessible to all children throughout the day. Staff sat with children during their meal and assisted children as required. Children were encouraged to feed themselves. Additional servings of dinner were offered and provided to children who were finished their meal. Staff were observed sitting with the children at mealtimes and engaging in conversation with children promoting a relaxed atmosphere.

Children were encouraged and supported to be independent including using the toilet independently and cleaning up after their play. Children's nappies were changed regularly and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. The sleep needs of children in the Creche room were catered for, two cots were available in this room should any of the children require a nap. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's independence during play and lunch time.

Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection. Staff displayed warmth and sensitivity during their interactions with the children and were observed supporting children in their play. Staff were observed to use distraction, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's positive behaviour management policy. Staff described how they communicate with parents about their child's day during arrival and collection times.

Care rooms were arranged to provide a range of play materials and areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Play materials available included small world toys, construction toys, home corners, sensory play, dress up materials and books. The care rooms provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and were adequately resourced with a variety of materials. The children's artwork and photos were displayed throughout the care rooms.

The environment was laid out to support the children's independence. Play materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available in the care rooms.

A fully enclosed outdoor area was located on the grounds of the community centre beside the service. Children attending the Preschool room accessed 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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

- The entrance door 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.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.

- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.

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. Children were observed to wash their hands before meals.
- An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. The premises, equipment and materials appeared clean and maintained in good condition.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated, through discussion, that they were familiar with the procedures and practices in place for the administration of medication in line with the services policy on medication administration. Administration of medication forms were kept in both care rooms.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff stated that one child who attends, occasionally sleeps during the day. A record was available to demonstrate that the child was physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Nappy changing practices observed during the inspection were inadequate for infection control purposes and at variance with the service's nappy changing procedure as follows;
 - Staff were observed to redress children with the same used gloves following nappy changes.
 - Children's hands were not washed following nappy changes.
 - Staff hands were not washed between nappy changes.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Childcare Manager met with the staff to discuss the report and the non-compliance. Childcare Manager provided staff with a copy of JADD's Nappy Changing Protocol. Nappy Changing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) displayed on the children's bathroom. Childcare Manager has organised a staff training day for the 2nd of December 2024 which will focus on infection protocol procedures. Infection control practices will be discussed with staff during staff supervision sessions.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

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

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

Compliance Information

(1)

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