

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DY098

Name of Service: Jonix Educational Services

Address of Service: Unit 1(a), Bakers Yard, Portland Street North, Dublin 1.

Eircode: D01 T673

Name of Registered Provider: Nicola Hansen

Service type: Part Time

Date of Inspection: 02/10/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	11
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	L.A Webster
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

Jonix Educational Services is a privately run specialist service that offers part time services to children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders; one of seven owned and operated by the registered provider. The service operates one session daily from 9am-1pm Monday-Friday from two classrooms in converted retail unit in North Dublin. The care rooms: namely the Junior Classroom and the Senior Classroom cater for 11 children aged 3-6 years old. Additionally, the service has an office, staff room, and sanitary facilities. There is an enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider employs nine staff that work directly with the children in the service including a person in charge and eight tutors. On the day of inspection, nine staff were present. Shortly after the inspection commenced, the regional area manager arrived to help facilitate the inspection process. The registered provider does not work within the service.

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.

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

This service was referred to the National Registration Enforcement Panel (NREP) on the 6 January 2026 in relation to unresolved area of recurring and outstanding non-compliance identified on inspection. A regulatory enforcement meeting was held on the 24 February 2026 between representatives of the service and members of the panel. This service remains under the consideration of NREP at the time of publication of this report.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the regional area manager, 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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.

(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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named persons to deputise when required.
 - (b) A review of the roster showed that the designated person in charge is available at all times in the service.
 - (c) The service had a clear management structure in the service and staff were aware of their own role and responsibilities.

- (2) In discussion with management and reviewing the roster, there are currently 9 staff working within the service. The files and qualifications of 5 new staff members were reviewed who were employed since the last inspection on the 01 October 2024.
- (a) Nine written and verified references were available from a past employer.
 - (b) One written and validated reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for five staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff employed.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of more than 6 months.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) Evidence was not available to show that 5 staff members who worked directly with the children held 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. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection in 2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (4) The registered provider has previously engaged with the relevant departments in relation to the qualification requirement and advise that their HR department will continue to favour and screen potential applicants for a qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education and recognition from the teaching council.

Supporting documentation submitted

None submitted.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has not provided evidence of relevant qualifications for staff; compliance under regulation 9 (4) remains outstanding.

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) There were 11 children being cared for by 8 staff members on the day of inspection. The person in charge was not assigned to a room and provided cover for breaks as needed.
- (2) Ratios were maintained during the inspection, and this was evidenced by the following observations.
- Junior Classroom had 6 children aged 3-4 years and were being cared for by 4 staff members.
 - Senior Classroom had 5 children aged 5-6 years and were being cared for by 4 staff members.

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

- (1) (a)(b) The following care practices to support the children's health, welfare and development.

Basic Needs:

- Children's individual daily routines were positioned around the care rooms, highlighting what the children would be engaging in throughout the day, and were gently reminded by staff throughout the morning. Additionally, staff ensured to support the children to return to their daily schedules to check what activity was next.

- Staff were observed to be kind and gentle in their interactions with the children. This was evident when children completed their individual tasks and were celebrated by their tutor. This instilled a sense of achievement and validation for the children.
- Children's artwork was displayed throughout the care rooms and in discussion with staff, they extended this interest into a food activity of making clown hats with ice cream cones.
- Lunch time was observed to be interactive, with children and staff sitting together and having various discussions about food such as colours; textures and taste.

Supporting Relationships:

- A strong sense of teamwork was identified throughout inspection and staff ensured that this was modelled to the children.
- Staff were observed to use kind and motivational tones with the children, and this was evident when children transitioned from tasks to handwashing and then to lunch time.

Physical and Material Environment:

- Developmentally age and stage appropriate tables and chairs were present throughout the care rooms to allow children to engage in tabletop activities and mealtimes independently and comfortably.
- Designated play areas were spaced throughout the care room to allow children to engage at various stations. Additionally, children availed of foam shapes to engage with such as rolling, stretching and having a rest.
- Toys and equipment were stored on low level shelves which supports various types of independent play and were themed for children to identify and choose from.
- The outdoor areas provided opportunities for a range of play experiences for the children.

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 entrance to the service was appropriately secured upon the inspector's arrival. The service entrance operated through a buzzer system that allowed entry into a main hallway where a second door is securely locked to prevent children from leaving the service unsupervised and restrict any unauthorised access to the service. Additionally, the outdoor area was securely fenced and gated.
- The care rooms were in good condition, with no visible hazards or trailing wires observed.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely and locked away out of reach of children.
- Shelving units were firmly anchored to the wall to ensure stability and safety.

Infection Control:

- Children's lunches were stored in a refrigerator to avoid spoiling of any perishable items.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper handtowels secured to the wall were available to the children throughout the inspection.
- Children's toilets were clean, hygienic and a visible cleaning checklist was available and in date to ensure cleanliness of the bathrooms.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available to ensure appropriate disposal of paper towels and waste.
- Within the sanitary room, children had individually labelled storage areas for their nappies, creams and wipes to avoid any cross contamination.
- Both children and showed familiarity with handwashing routines.

Fire Safety:

- All fire emergency exit doors were clear from obstruction. This helped ensure the safe effective evacuation of children and staff in the event of an emergency.

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 that the service was adequately insured, with an expiry date of 27 March 2026.