

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL123
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Name of Service:	Jolly Junior's Montessori & After School Club
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Address of Service:	38 Alden Drive, Bayside, Dublin 13, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D13 K3C5
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Name of Registered Provider:	Laura Keegan
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	08/09/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	3
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford
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

Jolly Juniors Montessori and Afterschool is a private service which operates from two care rooms, namely Small room (Room 1) and Larger room (Room 2) to the rear of a residential house on the north side of Dublin City. It provides a sessional and part time service to a maximum of 22 children aged from 2 to 6 years of age and operates from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and also provides a service to school age children. The service has access to an outdoor area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service employs a total of eight staff to include the registered provider, designated person in charge, six childcare staff, of whom two work directly with the school age children. The registered provider and the designated person in charge were available to provide assistance in the two care rooms during the inspection.

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 under regulations 9,11,19,23,26,29 and 20. 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

(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

(2) The files of four new staff employed in the service since the last inspection were reviewed.

(a) Seven validated written references were available from a past employer.

(b) One validated written reference was available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for eight staff members employed in the service. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff employed.

(d) International police vetting was available from one country for a staff member who had lived outside of the state for six months or more as an adult.

(4) On review of documentation available three employees employed in the service and working directly with the children had evidence to demonstrate that they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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.

(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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were 5 adults working with 20 children aged between 2 to 6 years of age.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times. The adult child ratios were maintained as follows;

Room 1: Two adults caring for 4 children aged between 2-3 years of age.

Room 2: Two adults caring for 14 children aged between 3-5 years of age in the morning and 2 adults caring for 3 children in the afternoon.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were present on the premises 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, and

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service with children enjoying a morning snack from home which consisted of fruit, yogurts, cheese and sandwiches. Additional food from home was available to the children who were attending the service on a part time basis. Drinking water was freely available to the children throughout the day while they played in the care room and outdoor area. The staff members sat with the children at snack time encouraging conversations and extending interactions to create a relaxed and sociable environment.
- Staff members were observed to be kind and attentive in their interactions with the children and

the atmosphere in the service was warm and child centred.

- The children were observed using the toilet under supervision, with assistance provided by a staff member when necessary.
- Children were observed moving freely within the care room and outdoor area and taking a break from activities and relaxing in a rest area when required.

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

- The staff members demonstrated sensitivity and responsiveness to each child's individual needs, likes and preferences, and frequently initiated conversations with the children, responded meaningfully to their verbal and non-verbal cues and provided regular praise and encouragement using a gentle tone of voice.
- The children were encouraged by the adults to take turns with their friends and share equipment and toys. Children were observed eagerly participating in the preparation for snack time and going outside to play.
- Staff members were familiar with the children's parents who could speak with staff at drop off and collection. The service engaged with parents via text message and emails which updated them on planned activities, pictures of the children throughout the day and information regarding the service and upcoming events.
- Staff worked well together in supporting the children and were aware of their roles and responsibilities regarding maintaining flexibility with the daily routine to ensure the care was child led.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The care rooms were bright and laid out in a variety of designated interest areas to include; arts and craft area (with paint, paint brushes, paper and glue), home corner and shop (with play kitchen, dolls, buggies and additional supporting equipment such as; shopping baskets, utensils, dishes, pots and pans), construction area (with cars, trucks, train tracks and building blocks), table top area (jigsaws, books, bead boards and threading games).
- All materials and equipment in the care rooms were appropriate to the age and development of the child. The furniture provided in the care rooms were low level and age appropriate for the children attending with toys and play materials accessible to the children and stored on low level shelving.

- The outdoor play area was surfaced with concrete paving and artificial grass. An enclosed area was available to enable staff and children to enjoy the outdoor area during all weather conditions. The materials available to the children included a play kitchen, toy animals and figures, balance board and blocks, building blocks, water tray with animals, ships and cars.
- Suitable rest areas were available in the rooms to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the day. They consisted of soft mats, cushions and a library.

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 premises and outdoor play area were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised people from gaining access to the service.
- The care rooms were observed to be suitable and safe with all cleaning agents, sharp implements, and flexes out of reach.
- Shelving units within the care rooms were secured to prevent them falling on a child.
- The water temperature in the sanitary accommodation in the service did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding for the children in attendance.
- Staff maintained a daily record of each child's arrival and departure to the service.

Infection Control:

- Adequate hand washing facilities were available in the sanitary facilities used by the children, these included thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated bins. Children were supported to wash their hands before snack and after using the toilet.
- A refrigerator was available in the service to refrigerate perishable food items from home.
- The service was observed to be clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules in operation within the care room and sanitary facilities.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff were aware of the procedure for the administration of medication to a child. No medication was administered to a child during the inspection.

Fire Safety:

- Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were completed in the service and all fire equipment to include fire extinguishers and smoke detectors were serviced yearly. The designated fire exits were illuminated and clear of any obstructions throughout the inspection.

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 written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 12 June 2025 before the service closed for the summer.

(b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms which were both last serviced in March 2025.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

(e) The service was equipped with adequate sanitary facilities for the number and age profile of the children in attendance. During the inspection there were 18 children aged from 2.5 years to 4 years of age using 2 toilets and 2 sinks.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1) Adequate clear floor space was available to the children present in Room 1 of the service during the operation of the service.

(2) and (3)

The clear floor space available to the children in Room 1 was measured as 12.78m².

The 4 children present in the room required 7.27 m² during the operation of the sessional service and 9.4 m² during the operation of a part time service.