

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015FL129				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Juniors Playschool and Montessori				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	15 Bramblefield View, Littlepace, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin				
<b>Eircode:</b>	D15 X280				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Rachel Quann				
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day				
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	15/08/2024				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>9</td> <td>PM</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </table>	AM	9	PM	9
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Second Floor, Unit 4 &5 Nexus Building Block 6A Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15				
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á Dunne				
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable.
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### Description of service

Juniors Playschool and Montessori, established in 2002, is a full day care, part-time, sessional and school age childcare service located in Mulhuddart, Dublin 15. The service cares for children aged between 1 - 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 8am-6pm and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service also caters for school age children. The premises is a two storey semi-detached house. There are three care rooms, a sleep room, an art and craft storage room and a kitchen. The sleep room and two care rooms are situated on the ground floor – Wobbler room (downstairs back) and Toddler room (downstairs front) and one large care room - the Montessori room and an art and craft storage room are situated upstairs. The wobbler room was not in operation on the day of inspection. There is an outdoor play area available to the children to the rear of the house.

### Staffing

There were three staff members present on the day of inspection, including the registered provider.

### 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations as follows:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4)

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2)(8)(a)

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety

Regulation 29 Premises

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. The scope of the inspection included the Toddler room and Montessori room, it did not include the Wobbler room as it was closed.

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, 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.*

*(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 five adults were reviewed as part of the inspection, to include the registered provider who works in the service and four staff.

(2)(a)(b) The registered provider had 2 written references and ensured that eight written and validated references were available in relation to four adults employed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for five 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 available for one staff member who had lived outside of Ireland for a period of more than 6 months.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the five adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs

### 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 registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. During the inspection there were 2 adults working directly with 9 children aged between 1 to 6 years.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection as the table below demonstrates.

Room Name	Age profile	On inspection
Wobbler room	1year to 2 years	Room Closed
Toddler room	2 years to 3 years	1 adult with 4 children
Montessori room	3 years to 5 years	1 adult with 5 children
Total	(1-6 years)	2 adults with 9 children

The registered provider was available in a supernumerary capacity and covered in rooms as required.

## 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:

- The children brought in their own snacks and lunch consisting of sandwiches, fruit and yogurts and children in full day care where a hot meal is required, also brought in a dinner. The snacks, lunches and dinners were stored in fridges until needed.
- Mealtimes observed were relaxed and sociable events, with children given time to sit at low tables appropriate to their ages. Children were encouraged to self-feed, but staff were on hand to help as required, supporting independence and wellbeing.
- Nappy changing and toilet visits were completed at set times and as needed to ensure each child's comfort.
- The transitions between activities such as nappy changes, sleep time, mealtimes and outdoor play were observed to be calm and relaxed with staff available to care for the individual needs of the children.

##### Supporting relationships:

- The service communicates with parents daily, verbally at collection time when staff update parents verbally on their child's day in the service and through completion of daily books. There is also a text message group used by the service for communication with parents.
- During morning snack time, staff were observed to sit with the children while they ate their food creating a relaxed and social environment promoting social interaction.
- Staff members supported each other in the provision of care to the children, for example, when nappy changing in the Toddler room was being completed by a staff member, the registered provider was present in the care room with the children.

##### Physical and material environment:

- The two care rooms - the Toddler room and the Montessori room were organised and well-resourced with a variety of Montessori and play based materials and equipment suitable for the age range and number of children in attendance.

- The materials and equipment resources available to the children were accessible and stored on shelving which promoted independence of choice for selection of materials.
- The inspector observed children playing outdoors during the inspection.
- The outdoor area consisted of a soft artificial surface and provided opportunities for the children to play with materials available to include: a sand pit, a playhouse, a playhouse with a slide, a play kitchen, climbing frames, two slides, see saws, ride in cars, scooters, trucks and cars, and an outdoor table with plastic building blocks.

### Non-Compliance Information

1. The children had morning snack at 11am, the registered provider and staff confirmed that dinner was not provided to the children until 2.30pm in the summer months and 3pm from September to June. As per the food and nutrition guidelines, mealtimes should be no longer than 3 hours apart. This was a previous non-compliance which was found on the last inspection 2021, the corrective and preventive action has not been sustained.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

1. The service has adjusted the food timetable, a fruit break has been added at 9.30am, morning snack at 11.30 and dinner at 2.30pm. As Parents supply the food from home the parents now bring a separate fruit tub for each child's 9.30am break.

### Summary Comment

The non-compliance outlined above under Regulation 19 has been addressed.

## 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 secure with a locked door and doorbell for access on the inspector's arrival, preventing a child from exiting the building unsupervised and an unauthorised adult from entering.
- Attendance records were completed with time of arrival and departure of each child from each care room on the day of inspection.

- The outdoor area was enclosed securely and the outdoor play equipment and materials were observed to be safe and suitable for use by the children.

### Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Windows were open in the care rooms allowing for the circulation of air.
- The two cot mattresses had washable wipeable covers present in each cot.
- Staff confirmed that laundry is washed daily.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. In the outdoor area, a trampoline was present and in use and while it is acknowledged that the children were supervised, trampolines are prohibited from being used in early year services.
2. In the Montessori room, a trailing flex from a hand drier was observed to be accessible to children, leading to a risk of injury.
3. In the Montessori room, the hot tap of the wash hand basin was not secure in its attachment to the sink, leading to a pinch risk.

#### Infection Control:

4. In the Montessori room thermostatically, controlled warm water was not available for handwashing. The children were observed washing their hands in cold water, this is not conducive to effective handwashing.

#### Safe Sleep:

5. While it is acknowledged, the registered provider and one staff member supervised sleeping children from the Toddler room, in the Wobbler room, ten-minute sleep checks were not recorded to observe the colour, position, breathing patterns and temperature of sleep room for children from the Toddler room who slept from 12.00pm to 13.40pm when the inspector left the service, this is not within safe sleep guidelines.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The trampoline has been covered and secured from all children.
2. The trailing flex has been removed.
3. The sink in the bathroom is now being used for handwashing.

### Infection Control:

- A plumber will rectify the issue with the taps which is linked to the supply of warm water. The sink in the bathroom is now being used for hand washing.

### Safe Sleep:

- The registered provider acknowledges that the sleep logbook was not being filled out for the children 10-minute sleep checks, the sleep log has been re-introduced and will be completed going forward.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

- Photographic Evidence.

#### Infection Control:

- Photographic Evidence

#### Safe Sleep:

- Photographic Evidence

### Summary Comment

Under Regulation 23, the non-compliances outlined above has been addressed.

## 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-*

- is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*
- is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

### Compliance Information

(2) (a) (b) First aid boxes were stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous positions both downstairs and upstairs in the service and in the event of an emergency was available to the children in the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) While it is acknowledged that the registered provider is qualified in First Aid Responder training for children. On the day of inspection, there was no person trained in First Aid Responder training available to the children until the registered provider arrived at the service at 10.36am. A sufficient number of adults must be trained with First Aid Responder training and available to children at all times to include cover of breaks, leave and appointments.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) An additional staff member has been enrolled to do a First Aid Responder training course on 17 October 2024. The service will have the registered provider or the staff member in the service and the staff roster is scheduled to ensure there is always on person with FAR qualification in the service during opening times.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(1) Receipt of booking of First Aid Responder course.

### Summary Comment

The non-compliance as outlined above, under Regulation 25 has been addressed but will be reviewed on the next 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 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

(b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment demonstrating it was last serviced on the January 2024 and for the number, type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms in the premises, which were last serviced on the 10 July 2024.

(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) Within the service, adequate and suitable sanitary facilities were available for children and staff as follows:

	Nappy Changing Mat	Toilet	Wash hand basin
Downstairs sanitary facility for Wobbler and Toddler rooms	1	1	1
Upstairs sanitary facility for Montessori room	1	1	1
Upstairs sanitary facility for Staff	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>