

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015KE112 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Judy's Playschool |
|-------------------------|-------------------|

|                            |                                         |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of Service:</b> | 2 Charleton Ave, Newbridge, Co. Kildare |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | W12 KP86 |
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|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Sharon Lowe |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Sessional |
|----------------------|-----------|

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| <b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b> | 13/03/2026 |
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|                                   |    |   |    |     |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|----|-----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 9 | PM | n/a |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|----|-----|

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|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co Kildare, W91 X38W. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | E. Mulhern                                                                                                                        |
| <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).

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| <b>Conditions if applicable</b> | N/A |
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### Description of service

Judy's Playschool is a privately operated sessional service located on the outskirts of Newbridge, County Kildare. The service operates from a purpose-built building adjacent to the registered provider's home. The premises consists of three rooms with sanitary facilities and an outdoor area which is located at the rear of the registered provider's home. The service is registered to accommodate a maximum of 11 children aged 2-6 years from 09:30 to 12:30 Monday to Friday.

### Staffing

The service is solely operated by the registered provider. A second person familiar with the operation of the service was present 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 areas 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

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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, emergency person 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-*

*(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.*

#### Compliance Information

(2)(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider and the emergency response person. 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.

### 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.*

*(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*

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*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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

### Compliance Information

(1) One adult was deemed adequate by the inspector for the number of children and the nature of their needs. There were nine children present during the inspection aged three and four years attending on a sessional basis. The emergency response person was available if needed.

(3) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement for the age of children and type of service provided was always maintained.

(8) (c) A second person familiar with the operation of the service was present during the inspection. This person lives adjacent to the service. The registered provider and second person reported that they are always available to provide assistance when the service is operating.

### 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

The children's learning, development, and well-being was supported by the registered provider and the environment. The children were supported to be independent with personal care including using the toilet and handwashing. The children were observed engaging in child-led play. There were some clearly defined interest areas including a home corner and construction area. Books were provided to support language development. An

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outdoor area was available which had natural elements including grass and shrubs. There was a sheltered space with resources for various types of play as well as ride-on toys and a basketball set to support gross motor play.

The service was celebrating St Patrick's day with a party which included food and drinks. The registered provider reported that the children usually bring their food and drinks from home and sit together in a group when eating. The inspector observed the registered provider interacting kindly with the children. The children appeared content and engaged. The registered provider described using an app for two-way communication with parents/guardians and holding one-to-one meetings.

### 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:

Measures had been taken to safeguard the children. Entrances were secured to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised. Emergency exits were kept clear. Monthly fire drill records were available, and the registered provider demonstrated an awareness of the procedures to evacuate the children safely in the event of a fire. Materials and equipment were appropriately maintained and suitable to the ages and stages of the children. Hazardous items including cleaning products and cables were secured out of children's reach.

##### Infection Control:

Measures had been taken to minimise the risk of infection spreading. The premises and equipment appeared clean. The sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped to support handwashing. The registered provider supported children to wash their hands at appropriate times including after toileting. Pedal operated bins were in place to manage waste appropriately.

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### Administration of Medication:

The registered provider reported that no child had received medicine while attending the service. The registered provider demonstrated an awareness of how to administer medicine safely if required including obtaining written parent/guardian consent and making a record.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

(a) A written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had been carried out in the service. The most recent fire drill record was dated 25 February 2026.

(b) Records were available in relation to the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarm. The most recent dates of testing were 16 April 2025 and 13 March 2026 respectively.