

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KE168
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Just for Kids Creche Ltd
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Castledermot Road, Bray, Athy, Co. Kildare
<b>Eircode:</b>	R14 VH75
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Gemma Loughman
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	18/11/2024

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	16	PM	14
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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>	F. Maher
<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>	N/A
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### Description of service

Just For Kids is a private service providing full day care, part-time and sessional care and education to pre-school children aged 0-6 years and opens from 08:00 – 17:45 hours, Monday to Friday.

The service operates from an adapted cottage in a rural location outside Athy. Three pre-school rooms, a sleep room and kitchen are provided. Outdoor play facilities are located to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

There were five adults employed in the service including the registered provider and all were present and working directly with the children on the day of 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 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.

## 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

*(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.*

*(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 person in charge and a named person to deputise.

(b) Both the person in charge and a named person who could deputise were on the premises during the inspection.

The files of five staff members employed were reviewed.

(2)(a)(b)

Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were available in respect of five adults whose records were reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults employed in the service.

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 adult who had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.

(3)  
All procedures specified in paragraph (2) had been completed prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4)  
Of the five staff records reviewed, the adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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)  
There were 16 children attending the service being supervised directly by 5 adults.

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.

(8)(a)

There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the Inspection, this was confirmed by the daily staff roster for the service.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

- (c) an authorised person.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.*

## Compliance Information

### (1)(a)-(i)

A sample size of 10 child records were reviewed. The information as required (a)-(i) was completed for each child attending the service.

### (3)(c)

The records in writing were available for inspection by the inspector.

### (4)

The registered provider advised all records are retained for the required period of time.

## 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. A system of daily indoor and outdoor environmental risk assessments had been implemented and were observed to be completed. The main entrance door to the service was secure and had a bell entry system; this was controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. The staff members in conversation with the inspector advised any food items observed to be a potential choking risk would be immediately cut into smaller pieces and any necklace/beads would immediately be removed if observed that a child may be wearing same.

### Infection Control:

Measures were taken to reduce the risk of infection spreading in the service as staff members supervise children's handwashing and hand washing routines were well established. Thermostatically controlled hot water was available in the main sanitary area and liquid hand soap and paper towel was readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying throughout the service. The nappy changing practice observed was consistent with the nappy change procedure for the service. Foot pedal operated bins were available throughout the service for the hygienic disposal

and containment of used tissues/ paper towels and soiled nappies. Soothers were stored in individual containers for each child using a soother in the service. Individual bed linen was provided and laundered frequently. There was a system in place for the management of shared/mouthed toys to prevent potential cross infection. Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments which were observed to be clean and tidy.

### **Administration of Medication:**

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. During conversations with the staff members, they advised they were aware of the procedures to be followed to administer medicine safely to a child if required while attending the service. Medicine was safely stored and out of reach of children. A medical care plan was in place for one child who may require emergency medication when attending the service, staff members were aware of the emergency medication location should it be required.

### **Safe Sleep:**

The staff members caring for sleeping children, in conversation with the inspector, advised that ten-minute sleep checks were recorded to check the colour, position and breathing pattern of sleeping children, this concurred with the written records reviewed on the day. The sleep room environmental temperature was recorded at 19.7°C at 10:12am to ensure a comfortable and safe sleeping environment for the children.

### **Fire Safety:**

Fire exits on the premises were easily recognisable and unobstructed and staff members demonstrated an awareness of fire evacuation procedures.

### **Outing:**

The service does not conduct outings.

## **Non-Compliance Information**

### **General Safety:**

The hot water at the hand basin in the Baby room nappy change area was recorded at 60.5°C and was a risk of a scald injury to a child or staff member. Immediate corrective action was taken by the registered provider who advised staff members not to use this tap and the plumber was contacted.

## **Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

### **Corrective & Preventive Action**

#### **General Safety:**

The hand wash basin will not be used until the plumber has corrected the issue.  
The plumber is booked for December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## Supporting documentation submitted

### General Safety:

Email from the registered provider advising the thermostat has been repaired, dated 14 December 2024.

## Summary Comment

The written corrective action and the subsequent communication received from the registered provider, 14 December 2024, has been accepted by the inspector, the requirement for Regulation 23 has been met.

## 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.*

*(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) no person other than-*

*(i) pre-school child attending the service,*

*(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*

*(iii) an employee, or*

*(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*

*(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.*

## Compliance Information

(1)

The person in charge ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained in each care room.

(3)(a)(b)

The person in charge ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.

(4)

The person in charge confirmed that all records were retained in storage for the required period of time.

### 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-*

*(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*

*(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)  
Staff members were trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2)(a)(b)  
The first aid box was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous position in the service and immediately available to for the children at all times.

### 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)  
Written records were available of all fire drills completed in the service.
- (b)  
The smoke/fire detection system was last serviced 19 September 2024.
- (4)  
A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the service

## Non-Compliance Information

(b)  
There was no up to date maintenance certificate for the firefighting equipment in the service, the maintenance certificate on file had expired 26 September 2024.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

I have contacted Fire company to come and replace/refill the extinguishers immediately.  
I have taken note of the 'expiry' date on Fire Cert and will make sure that, in future, the fire company will be here to service our extinguishers before 'expiry' date.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Document x 1, dated 26 November 2024.

## Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 26(b) has been met.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

## Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2025. The insurance provided cover for 28 children.