

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KK038
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Jerpoint Montessori
-------------------------	---------------------

Address of Service:	Jerpoint West, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny
----------------------------	-----------------------------------------

Eircode:	R95 R5F6
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Mags Davis
-------------------------------------	------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	03/12/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	36	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Child and Family Agency, Ferrybank, Wexford.
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
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
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Jerpoint Montessori is situated in a rural setting. A sessional service is provided to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 1.00pm for 38 weeks of the year. The service is operated from a purpose-built single-storey premises consisting of four preschool rooms. These rooms are called the dinosaur room, the elephant room, the owl room, and the monkey room. There are toilets, a nappy changing facility, an entrance hallway, and an outdoor area to the rear of the service.

Staffing

There are five staff employed in the service. The registered provider also works directly with the children. All staff working directly with the children held the minimum of level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

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.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 10 Policies and Procedures,

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (3),

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4).
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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

(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.*

(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)(b)

The registered provider was the person in charge on the day of inspection. The designated person in charge was also in service on the day of inspection and was available to facilitate the inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were five staff employed in the service. Written and validated references were available on file for all staff working in the service.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.

- (d)
Police vetting was not required as there were no staff who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4)
There were qualifications on file for all staff working directly with the children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

There were policies and procedures in place in the service specified in Schedule 5 of these regulations. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the policy on managing accidents and incidents and the policy for behaviour management in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

The policy on healthy eating did not include information for parents on the requirements to provide healthy choices of food and drink for their children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The healthy eating policy continues to be updated in the service. The service has engaged with staff and parents to establish improved provision of snacks and drinks in the service. The service has shared national healthy eating guidelines with parents.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the correspondence shared with parents was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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 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.

Compliance Information

(1)

At all times there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.

(3)

At 11.00am

There were 36 children in the care of 5 staff.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The four preschool rooms were resourced with play equipment for the learning and enjoyment of the children attending the preschool. In the monkey room there was a supply of Montessori equipment stored on easily accessible shelves. There were polishing bowls, knob cylinders, colour boxes with a selection of coloured tiles, a spindle box, and jigsaws for children to play with and learn from. There was original artwork completed by the children displayed in the room. These paintings were of snow men and Christmas trees made by the children. The dino room was a long narrow room which catered to the older children in the service. The play equipment was stored on open shelves, which allowed the children to access the toys and play equipment independently. Of particular note was a birds nest which a staff member had brought into the service. The children were delighted to show the nest to the inspector explaining that was where birds lived.

There was an extensive supply of story books for the children to read in all the preschool rooms.

The outdoor area was well resourced with play equipment for the children which was stored in a large container in the outdoor area.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The children were observed having their morning snack. Some children enjoyed a variety of healthy options such as fruit sandwiches and crackers with water to drink.

Non-Compliance Information

During snack time many children were observed having foods which contained a high sugar content. Many children had foods such as chocolate spread on rice cakes, sweets, jellies and large quantities of juices which had been provided by parents. These foods are not recommended in preschool services.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

An e mail was sent to parents outlining the findings of the inspection in relation to the provision of snacks and drinks in the service. Copies of the national guidelines on healthy eating were also sent to parents. Staff have hosted healthy eating days in the service in each of the preschool rooms. Children have been encouraged to sample fruit and vegetables prepared by staff. Children’s drink bottles are replenished with water as required during their time in the service. Staff will continue to encourage healthy eating in the service and discourage foods which are high in sugar.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the e mail shared with parents was received by the inspector.

Photographs of the children sharing platters of fruit as part of the healthy eating initiative in place was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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 external door was secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised people gaining access to the service. The front door was secured by a lock. Access was gained to the service by ringing the bell. All cleaning agents were stored on shelves which were inaccessible to children. The large outdoor area to the rear of the service was safe, suitable and secure.

Infection control:

The service had an infection control policy. Children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet and after messy play. The service was clean with no obvious maintenance required.

Accident and incidents

The service had a policy on the management of accidents and incidents in the service. Previous records of accidents and incidents which had occurred in the service were reviewed by the inspector. Records were signed by parents and were in line with the policy in place in the service.

Outings

The service does not accommodate outings.

Non-Compliance Information

The food provided by parents was not stored in the fridge in the service. This measure is required to prevent the growth of bacteria on food prior to it being served.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Perishable items are placed in the fridge in the service. There is a system in place where children place their perishable snacks in a container in each preschool room and staff store there's items in the large fridge in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

A photograph of trays of perishable food now stored in the fridge in the service was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was one staff member trained as a first aid responder working in the service. If this person was not in the service, there would be no staff member trained in a first aid responder course available to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has enrolled in a first aid responder course. The service plan to enrol one more staff member in a first aid responder course in the coming year.

Supporting documentation submitted

Confirmation the registered provider has enrolled to attend the next available first aid responder course was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in service in October 2025.

(b)

There was a record stating the firefighting equipment was last serviced in May 2025 and the smoke alarm in December 2025.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the main entrance hallway of the service

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.