

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK008
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Adare Preschool Playgroup
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Methodist Hall Black Abbey Road Adare Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 Y472
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Jillian Devery
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/09/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	18	PM	No.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J Ryan
<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).

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

### Description of service

This private sessional service was established in 2003. It operates a morning session from 09:15 – 12:15 hours Monday – Friday for 38 weeks a year. The service provides a play-based curriculum from a room in the Methodist Hall building and the children have access to a pre-school room, sanitary accommodation area and a designated outdoor space.

### Staffing

The registered provider is the designated person in charge and has completed a major award in early childhood care and education at level 8. The second member of staff working in the service has a level 6 qualification.

### 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 9,11,15,19,25,26,28 and 29.

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.*

*(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) The registered provider was the person in charge and a named person to deputise as required was available.

(b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived.

(2)(a) Two written references from past employers were available for the three staff members. The manager of the service had validated all references that were on file.

(b) Written and verified references from reputable sources were not required as all staff had references from previous employers

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the three staff members. All adults in the early years setting working directly with children had a vetting disclosure dated within the previous 3 years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The staff working directly with the children attending the service held awards in early childhood care and education at levels 6 or 8 on the national qualifications framework.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) There were 18 pre-school children aged 2.5 years – 5 years being supervised by 3 staff at the time of the inspection. The adult/child ratio on the day of the inspection was greater than the minimum requirements of 1:11.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of 4 preschool records for the children were examined and each record contained all the required information (a) – (i).

### 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 their own packed lunches in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Food observed on the day of the inspection included: sandwiches, yogurts, a selection of fruit and drinks of water. Drinking water was available throughout the session if a child needed a drink.

The children were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation with a supply of hot and cold running water and liquid antibacterial soap. Staff were observed to clean the tables before snacks were eaten.

Children were allowed to move freely indoors from one activity to the next for specific periods of time. A designated rest/quiet area was available in the room should a child need to rest and have some quiet time.

The children enjoyed freedom of movement within the pre-school room. There was a plentiful supply of play props available to support sensorial play.

The children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow and a good level of choice of activities. The adults modelled positive behaviour for the children and they were praised for their good behaviour. Children sat at low tables and had their lunch in an environment that promoted social interaction with peers and the adults and was unhurried.

Interactions with the children were positive and caring. Circle time allowed children in the group to sing a song if they wished.

##### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

There was one playroom available to the pre-school children. This service provided a range of developmentally appropriate experiences for the children attending. The range of toys offered stimulation to all the senses.

Materials used included sensory, cause and effect, symbolic and imaginative play which supported all areas of development. Children were observed playing with the sand, colouring pictures, building blocks and playing with play dough. Materials and equipment were freely accessible to the children when needed, for example crayons,

paper and paint were available throughout the session, artwork was displayed, and items of interest were at the child's eye level on low level shelving. There were areas of interest such as home corner, library/rest area, sand play, musical instruments, jigsaws shelf, montessori materials and construction areas evident in the service. The outdoor play area contained a surface of playground chips surrounded by a stone wall. There was a covered sand box, a climbing frame, an outdoor playhouse. The area was spacious and well maintained.

### 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) One Staff member held current certification in first aid for children.

(2)(a) A first aid box was stored in the playroom.

(b) The first aid box was available at all times if required by a child

## 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) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place in June 2024.
- (b)The firefighting equipment was not serviced on an annual basis. The maintenance record demonstrated that the firefighting equipment were last service in September 2024 and the smoke alarm system was serviced in September 2024.
- (4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the playroom.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was available to cover the number of children who attended.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. Paint work in the reception area, the sanitary accommodation and the lobby area was not maintained and repainted as required as the walls and doors were marked in places.

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

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

Following the inspection a meeting with the landlords was held to discuss maintenance issues. They have informed the registered provider that they will be painting the premises over the Christmas preschool holidays as the work can only be carried out while the school is closed.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Yearly meetings with the landlords will take place to ensure the premises is maintained.

#### Summary Comment

The actions as documented by the registered provider meet the regulatory requirements of regulation 29(d).