

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

NTUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LS041
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Name of Service:	Jelly Tots Community Creche and Playschool
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Address of Service:	Fr. Breen Park, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois
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Eircode	R32 K65X
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mary White
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	17/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	34	PM	15
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Inspection undertaken by:	D. Molloy
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
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Description of service

Jelly Tots Community Creche and Playschool is located in the town of Abbeyleix in rural County Laois. The service is a community service which was founded in 2000 and is still operated by Abbeyleix Women's Development Group.

The service operates as a full day care service and is registered to accommodate up to 34 pre-school children. The full day care service operates from 7.30am to 6.00pm. A sessional service operates each morning from 9.30am to 12.30md.

This Early Years' Service operates from a single-story premises, converted from community hall, on its own site next to Fr. Breen Park playing fields.

The premises offers an entrance hall/lobby and a long hallway. A reception /office is located at the main entrance door. The large L shaped pre-school room and the toddler room cater for children aged one year to six years of age. A kitchen, a designated sleeping room, seven toilets and seven wash hand basins including one for staff use and two nappy changing facilities are provided.

A large indoor hall is available for children's use as an additional indoor play facility.

Two outdoor play areas are provided to the rear and side of the premises.

Parking is available in the public parking area in front of the premises

Staffing

The registered provider was not present on the day of inspection, the inspection was facilitated by the person in charge who was not part of the staff ratio. A third level student on work experience was present in the service. Staff working in the service had qualifications ranging from level 5 to level 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 19 - Health, welfare, and development of, as a result, the scope of the inspection included the toddler room.

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 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*
- (c) *there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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 service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.
 - (b) The designated person in in charge was present during the inspection and the roster showed that at all times the registered provider was present during the opening hours of the service.

The registered provider stated that two new staff members had commenced employment in the service since the last inspection. The files of new staff members and students were reviewed on site.

(2)

(a) Validated references from new staff members' past employers, in particular the most recent employer was available for review.

(b) Validated references from reputable sources were available for review in respect of new staff members.

(c) A vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the new staff members was available for review.

(d) Police vetting from other police authorities was not required for new staff members.

(4)

All employees held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6-8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police vetting from other police authorities was not available for a student who was on work placement in the service and had lived outside the state for a period in excess of six months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

2(d) On 14.06.23 the person in charge submitted evidence of police vetting from outside Ireland for a student who was present in the service on the day of inspection. The registered provider gave commitment that going forward all vetting procedures would be completed prior to allowing any students or staff members be present in the service with access to preschool children.

Supporting documentation submitted

The person in charge submitted a copy of required police vetting in respect of one student issued on 13.06.2023 in a country outside Ireland.

Summary Comment

Further to the actions of the person in charge the outstanding requirements of this regulation have now been met.

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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

(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)
The required ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection. The registered provider ensured that there were sufficient adults working directly with the children. Records showed that the adult child ratio was upheld in the service.

(4)
(a) (b)
The required ratio of adults to children was observed during the inspection and records showed that the sufficient adults were rostered to work with the children each day.

(8) (a)
The registered provider had ensured that there were at least two adults on the premises at all times during the opening hours of the service.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker, or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

The registered provider had ensured that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations was available on the premises and could be viewed by

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker, or contractor, and
- (c) an authorised person.

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

BASIC NEEDS:

In the toddler room staff were fully engaged with the children and were responsive to their needs. Nappies were changed as needed and children who were not able to self-feed as yet were spoon fed in a caring and interactive manner.

In the preschool room children were supported to become independent and self-caring and were encouraged to take care of their own belongings including hanging up their coats and opening bags and lunch boxes and tidying up their toys when finished playing.

Younger children were brought outdoors for fresh air in the care of the staff in their room.

Older children move freely indoors and outdoors, and some children chose to relax in the cosy corner.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

It was observed that the children were relaxed and comfortable in the company of staff and a warm friendly atmosphere was noted.

Staff remained constant, with the same staff in the service each day and this consistency created continuity of care and provided opportunity for children to form relationships with the staff.

Parents involvement was encouraged, and parents had opportunity to meet with staff each day at hand over time and could come into the service and avail of individual meetings to discuss their own children's progress.

Transitions from home to service were supported by centre children's visits and parents visits prior to enrolment. Preschool to primary school transitions were supported as the children discussed their plans to move to their new school and become familiar with the idea towards the end of the year.

Children who needed additional help and support were given this by staff who helped children promote their social skills.

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 service provided healthy varied nutritious food for the children. A three-week menu plan had been devised based on present national guidelines which was available for review. Food was prepared on site on a daily basis by a designated cook. Children were offered breakfast on arrival, a mid-morning snack that was made up of sandwiches, fresh fruit, and yogurts. Dinner on the day was roast chicken, vegetables and pasta, tea was beans on toast and mid-afternoon snack was crackers and cheese, sufficient portions were provided. Milk and water were available. Individual dietary needs could be facilitated.

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:

All cleaning, sanitising products and equipment were stored in safe place out of reach of children.
A pest control system was in place to safeguard against pests.

Infection Control:

Children were observed washing their hands regularly and adults were observed offering assistance if necessary.
The service was clean, and staff were observed surface cleaning during the inspection and adults were familiar with the infection control policy.
The service was well ventilated with openable windows and air purifier system which allowed air flow and air exchange.

Safe Sleep:

A designated sleeping room was provided for children's use which was restfully decorated, and a viewing panel was in place for observing sleeping children. Temperature was controlled and the room was well ventilated.

Staff were aware of best sleep practices, physically monitored sleeping children, carried out and recorded sleeping checks, one staff member sat in room with sleeping children.

Fire Safety:

The fire exits were unobstructed. A notice of the fire assembly point was on display to show fire assembly point to the back of the service

Outing:

A service outing was arranged in the summertime and an outings policy had been devised to facilitate safety.

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 had up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) certification and were available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)
(a) The first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible location on the premises.
(b) The first aid box was readily available in the service 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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
 - (b) an employee, and
 - (c) an authorised person.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation
- (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 carried out in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on 20 April 2023.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The fire alarms were serviced in August 2022, the firefighting equipment was checked on 24 November 2022.

(2)

The record was available and open to parents, guardians, employees, and the authorised person.

(3)

The person in charge stated that records were retained for a period of 5 years after creation.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A copy of up-to-date insurance cover for the number of children attending the service. was available in the service. The insurance certificate was valid until March 2024

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated, and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained, and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a)The premises appears to be of sound and stable structure indoors and outdoors.
- (b)The premises was safe from unauthorised access as a controlled entry system was in place which was operated from within the setting. The outdoor areas were securely fenced, and the gates were secured from within.
- (c)The premises was adequately lit throughout with a combination of artificial and natural light. The premises was adequately ventilated with openable windows in the sanitary accommodations and throughout the setting. Oil fired heating was provided.
- (d)The service was observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition and staff cleaning rosters were maintained.
- (e)The premises had adequate and suitable sanitary facilities for children and staff. There were seven toilets and wash hand basins and two nappy changing facilities available in the setting.

Non-Compliance Information

(d)

It was observed that the brass-coloured plumbing pipe attached to the wall radiator in the passageway between the toddler room and the playroom was protruding outwards and causing a trip hazard.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The person in charge in email correspondence stated that the trip hazard identified on the inspection has been addressed by remedial works on the plumbing pipe in question. The person in charge stated that piping would be maintained correctly going forward and that risk assessment on all piping would be included in the service risk assessment protocol.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence showing the remedial work to the piping which had caused the trip hazard was submitted for review

Summary Comment

Due to the remedial action instigated by the person in charge and the statement of commitment going forward the non-compliance highlighted has been addressed.

Part IX - Inspection and Enforcement

Regulation 33 – Furnishing of information to agency

A registered provider shall furnish the Agency with such information as the Agency may reasonably require for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations and the information shall be in such form, if any, as may be specified by the Agency.

Compliance Information

The registered provider facilitated the inspection and provided access to all information as was required for completion of the inspection.