

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LS062
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Name of Service:	Jigsaw Childcare
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Address of Service:	28 Bruach na hAbhann, Killeen, Co. Laois
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Eircode:	R93XD42
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sulinder Finn
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	12/06/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child and Family Agency Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore, Co Offaly
Inspection undertaken by:	R Flynn
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

Jigsaw Childcare is a private sessional service for children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates between the hours of 08:45 and 11:45 on a Monday to Friday basis. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme for 38 weeks of the pre-school year. The Early Years' Service is located in an urban area in the village of Killeen, County Laois. The service operates from a two-storey building. An entrance hall, two pre-school rooms, a kitchen and storage facilities are provided. A large outdoor area is at the back of the pre-school. Parking and set down facilities are available to the side of the property.

Staffing

The registered provider employs one adult in the service. The registered provider and one staff member were working directly with the children on 12 June 2025. The registered provider facilitated 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 area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under;

Regulation 9 (1) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11(1), (3) – Staffing Levels.

Regulation 19 (1)(a)(b) – Health, welfare and development of child.

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials.

Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First aid.

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety.

Regulation 28 – Insurance.

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a significant risk to the children was identified under Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.

The findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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.

Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider on 12 June 2025 in relation to a risk identified under regulation 23. The registered provider responded on 12 June with the actions taken which mitigated the risk. See Regulation 23 for details.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff member 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)

A designated person in charge and a named person to deputise were available as required.

(b)

The registered provider was present for the duration of the inspection.

Two staff files including the registered provider's were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers or from a source other than a previous employer in respect of the one staff member.

Two written references were available in respect of the registered provider.

- (c)
A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the files reviewed. In respect of one of the two files reviewed the service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.
- (d)
Police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4)
The registered provider and staff member working directly with children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 5 and 8 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.*
- (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)
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.
- (3)
The ratio of adults to children was maintained on the day of the inspection.
There were sixteen children attending the service being supervised directly by two adults.

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.

Compliance Information

There was a happy atmosphere in the service. The children were observed engaged, active and involved throughout the morning session as they chose between activities. Staff members were observed to be warm, kind and respectful towards the children in their care. Children were spoken to using their first names, appropriate eye contact was made and soft vocal tones were used during interactions. Children's language development was supported through individual and group discussions.

Children were observed eating a packed lunch provided by their parents. The children sat at low level tables while eating and engaged in conversations with each other. Lunches consisted of a variety of sandwiches, yoghurts, rice cakes and fruit. Children's drinks were readily available in their lunch bags. Bags were stored on low level hooks in the pre-school rooms. Staff sat with the children during snack time and engaged in discussion.

Staff reminded children to wash their hands after using the toilet.

Both pre-school rooms had a range of play-based equipment that offered stimulation, exploration, and imagination. Toys and equipment were positioned at an accessible level on open shelving which nurtured independence, facilitated choice and encouraged curiosity and spontaneous play.

A range of books were available in the reading area of both pre-school rooms.

The children were observed practicing in a group for their graduation ceremony, dancing and singing.

Children had the opportunity to take the lead and exercise choice in relation to their engagement in activities and in accessing play equipment throughout the session.

Children’s artwork including a helper’s chart and ‘Theme of the week’ was displayed. Photographs of the children with their birthday were displayed.

An enclosed outdoor area was located to the back and side of the service. A range of developmentally appropriate equipment was available included a mud kitchen, a slide, a climbing structure and a playhouse. A crawl tunnel was available, made from large painted tyres to add interest and additional opportunities for physical activity for the children. Wellington boots for each child were available to facilitate outdoor play throughout the year.

The service worked in partnership with parents. A verbal handover was provided to parents at collection time. An electronic messaging application is used to provide regular updates. The staff present informed the inspector that information regarding the service including leaflets outlining the policies and procedures are provided to parents on the open day.

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

A wide variety of age and developmentally appropriate equipment was available indoors and outdoors. The pre-school had a variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys, materials and equipment available for the children to use and play with. Children were encouraged to use the available materials such as beads, wooden puzzles and jigsaws which were organised and grouped on open storage units at the children’s level. Defined areas of interest in the Tiger room included a nature table, a farm area and a reading corner. The Panda room had a tuff tray, low level shelves with a variety of tabletop activities such as beads, letters and mixing materials. The children sat on child sized chairs when participate in tabletop activities.

Child size toilets were accessible via the Tiger room. Low level sinks with liquid hand soap and paper towels stored at child level were available.

The panda room had a comfortable rest area with cushions and a book shelf.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for two staff members. However, the most recent Garda vetting disclosure presented in respect of one staff member was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. The water temperatures recorded at the hand basins the sanitary accommodation in the Tiger room ranged from 46.9 - 47.7 degrees Celsius which presented a potential risk of a scald injury to children. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on site in respect of Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child, General Safety. It is acknowledged that the registered provider responded in writing with the action taken to mitigate the risk on the 12/06/2025.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The Garda Vetting disclosure in respect of one staff member has been returned.
2. The registered provider immediately arranged a plumber to attend the service who fixed the temperature thermostat on 12 June 2025.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed.

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)

The registered provider was qualified in First Aid response (FAR) and available on the premises for the hours of operation.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was located in the Tiger room and Panda room.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to adults caring for children in the pre-school service.

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.

(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 for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on the 28 May 2025.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and

smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises were serviced in December 2024.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures were noted in a conspicuous location in the premises.

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 for 22 children attending the service and the expiry date noted was 27 March 2026.