

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MH085		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Jumping Joans		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	3 Gracemeadows Avenue, Cockhill Road, Stamullen, Co.Meath		
<b>Eircode:</b>	K32RW56		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mary Brangan		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day Care		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	14/06/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	33	PM 15
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, Family Resource Centre Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	D. Murray		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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>	Not Applicable		

### Description of service

Jumping Joans was established in 2005 and is one of two services owned by the registered provider. The service provides full day, part time and sessional care and education to children from 10 months to 6 years and operates from 07:30am to 6pm. Eligible children participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE).

The service operates from a converted residential property and consists of 3 care rooms on the ground floor with an ECCE room, with a separate entrance door on the first floor.

The rooms in the service were as follows:

Downstairs:

The **Jungle Cubs** which provide care for children from 10 months to 2 years.

The **Dancing Dolphins** which facilitate the care of children from 2 to 3 years.

The **Rising Stars** caters for children from 3 to 4 years.

Upstairs:

The **Wise Owls** provides care and education for children from 3 years to school going age. This room is used for school aged children in the afternoon.

The service also has a cot room, kitchen, sanitary facilities, and an outdoor space to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs a manager, 8 childcare staff, 1 staff member specific to the school aged children, a student and 1 household staff member. On the day of inspection there was the manager, 6 childcare staff, 1 staff member specific to the school aged children, a student and 1 household staff member.

### 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,20,21,22,23,25,26 and 28. These 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.

## Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the manager, 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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

#### Compliance Information

(1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) From a review of the service file and discussion with the manager it was confirmed that 1 student and 3 new childcare staff had been employed in the service since the last inspection. All staff files were reviewed, and the following was noted.

- (a) Twenty validated written references were available from a past employer.
- (b) Six validated written references were from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for 13 staff member.
- (d) Not applicable as no new staff member had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) All childcare staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

(6) (a) Two staff members were employed under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

### 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 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 6 adults and a student working directly with the 33 children attending the service on the day of inspection. The manager was also available to provide support to the care room as needed.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection. The rooms were as follows:

- The **Jungle Cubs** room had 1 adult with 3 children ranging in age from 1 to 2 years.
- The **Dancing Dolphins** had 1 adults and a student with 6 children ranging in age from 2 to 3 years.
- The **Rising Stars** had 1 adult with 6 children ranging in age from 3 to 4 years.
- The **Wise Owls** had 3 adults with 18 children ranging in age from 3years to school going age.

(8) (a) The designated person in charge ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

### 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) The following observations were made on how each child’s learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

#### Basic needs:

- Children’s individual needs were met with additional care, attention and supervision given as required. In all care rooms the staff were actively involved in the children’s play where appropriate. Children were observed enjoying meaningful, sustained play with tabletop activities, art and crafts and free playing with lots of conversation and laughter observed. The service embraces outdoor play and learning with all children observed enjoying outdoor play with their peers.
- In the Jungle Room the babies were observed being sung to and spoken to in a gentle caring voice. Any child that became upset were nurtured and cuddled until they settled. Throughout the service staff members were observed changing children’s nappies regularly and in a timely manner with warm one-to-one interactions observed. The older children were encouraged to become independent and self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development which included using the toilet, hand washing, caring for their belongings and tidying away after activities and play.
- The staff members sat and chatted with the children at mealtimes, helping the children when required whilst encouraging conversation and extending interactions.
- Transitions were handled smoothly with staff giving the children ample time to complete one activity before starting the next. The theme of the week was “Fathers Day” “Graduation” and “Sea Animals” with cards made and art work displayed to reflect these themes.
- All children who availed of sleep were placed to sleep for a scheduled period of rest at the service’s designated sleep time after dinner.

#### Supporting relationships around children:

- The staff spoke to all children in a positive way and listened attentively to each child. The children benefitted from being cared for by the same staff members as it was observed that the children sought out the staff members for assistance comfort and assurance. During activities children were offered choices and the staff members were very aware of reading the children’s cues, gestures and body language.

- The service showed a positive regard towards the families of the children and family links were nurtured in the service with family photographs displayed. Parents were meet at the main door with verbal interactions observed pertaining to their child. The children appeared comfortable, happy and relaxed in their environment.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

- (1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.
- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-
- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or

#### Compliance Information

- (1)(b) The cot room off the Jungle Cubs room had 3 cots for children under 2 years requiring sleep. The remainder of the children who availed of sleep were accommodated on stackable beds in the Dancing Dolphins room. Within the care rooms there were mats and cushions for children to take a break from activities and rest, if needed.
- (3)(a) There was a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to the rear of the premises, which was enclosed by walls and fencing, had an all- weather surface with 2 secure side gates. This space was divided into 2 areas to accommodate the age range of the children.

## 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

- All care rooms were resourced with play materials and equipment which were laid out in interest areas which were spacious and uncluttered. The play materials and equipment incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts, a range of suitable toys and books which were available on open shelving.
- The outdoor area had a partially sheltered area which permitted outdoor play in all types of weather. The equipment in the smaller area for the younger age group consisted of a wooden activity unit with a slide and climbing wall, mud kitchen, sand tray and a ball pool. The larger area also had a wooden activity unit with a slide and climbing wall, playhouse, plastic kitchen and ride on toys.

## 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 had a 2-week menu plan with a variety of food ranging from meat and poultry freshly prepared onsite. The service provided breakfast from 8am to 9am. The older children brought their own lunches which they had at 11am. The younger children had fruit and rice cakes for morning snack.

Dinner was served between 11:30 to 12am for the children attending on a full day care basis which consisted of chicken curry, vegetables and rice. Fruit and pancakes were served at 2pm with sandwiches and yogurts served before leaving for home. Milk and water were the drinks of choice with additional drinks of water brought out to the outdoor area as the day was warm.

### 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 following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The main door to the service was secured and the outdoor space was enclosed and secure. These security measures ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor spaces.
- All play materials were placed on stable based shelving units. Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children present in the service.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Risk assessments were conducted on a daily basis.

##### Infection Control:

The following infection control measures were observed:

- Liquid soap, paper hand towel and warm water not exceeding 43<sup>0</sup> C was available at the sinks in the sanitary facilities. The hand washing policy and nappy changing policy were implemented in practice with appropriate hand washing for staff and children at all times.
- The service was clean with cleaning schedules maintained on a daily basis.

##### Safe Sleep:

Safe sleep practices were observed in the service as demonstrated by the following examples:

- A thermometer was available in the cot room off the Jungle Cubs room to ensure the temperature of the room was maintained between 16 to 20<sup>0</sup> C while children were sleeping.
- A sleep log on each child recording the position, colour and breathing pattern was recorded at 10 minutes intervals.
- Adequate space of at least 50cm was left between the cots in the cot room and between the stackable beds in the Dancing Dolphins room.

### 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 service provided evidence that an adequate number of staff members had completed an up to date First Aid Responders course to ensure that a staff member was always available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

### 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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place 09/05/2023.
- (b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The fire fighting equipment were serviced on the 06/07/2022. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 14/04/2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the entrance hall of the premises.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for 50 children at any one time attending the service. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28/03/2023 to 27/03/2024.