

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015MH085

Name of Service: Jumping Joans

Address of Service: 3 Gracemeadows avenue, Cockhill Road, Stamullen, Co. Meath

Eircode: K32 RW56

Name of Registered Provider: Mary Brangan

Service type: Full Day

Date of Inspection: 15/07/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	14

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
Inspection undertaken by:	D. Murray
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

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. A school aged service is also provided. The service operates from 07:30am to 6pm and eligible children can 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 a separate entrance door to an ECCE /School aged room on the first floor.

The rooms in the service were as follows:

Downstairs:

The **Rainbow** room which provides care for children from 10 months to 2 years.

The **Rising Stars** and the **Forest Friends rooms** facilitates the care of children from 2 to 3 years.

Upstairs:

The **Wise Owls** room 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, 9 childcare staff, 1 staff member specific to the school aged children, and 1 household staff member. On the morning of the inspection there was the manager, 6 childcare staff, 1 staff member specific to the school aged children commenced work at 1pm, 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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 wish 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.

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) Thirteen staff files were reviewed.

(a)&(b) Twenty six validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for 13 staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable as no staff member had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Eleven 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.

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) 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) On the morning of the inspection there was a manager and 6 adults working directly with the 15 pre-school children attending the service.

(2) The following adult to child ratios were observed when the service was operating at capacity on the day of inspection:

The **Rainbow** room had 5 children ranging in age from 1 to 2 years being cared for by 1 adult. Four children were availing of full day care and 1 child who was settling in went home at 12 o'clock.

The **Rising Stars** room had 6 children ranging in age from 2 to 3 years being cared for by 1 adult. All 6 children were availing of full day care.

The **Forest Friends** room had 4 children ranging in age from 2 to 3 years being cared for by 1 adult. All 4 children were availing of full day care.

The **Wise Owls** room provided care and education for children from 3 years to school going age from 9 to 12am. This room is used for school aged children in the afternoons, however during the summer this room is used for school aged children only.

(8) (a) According to the staff roster 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:

- The staff members sat with the children at snack and dinner time helping the children when required whilst encouraging conversation and extending interactions.
- In the Rainbow and Forest Friends rooms any child who became upset or who were settling in were nurtured and cuddled until they settled. All children went to sleep at the service designated sleep time after dinner at 12am.
- Children's nappies were changed regularly and in a timely manner with warm one-to-one interactions during direct care. Staff members were responsive to the children's cues should they need to use the toilet, with discreet supervision provided and assistance given if required.
- Children were observed engaging in tabletop activities, art and crafts and free play with children afforded the opportunity to choose and change activities if they so wish.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The staff members communicated with parents on a daily basis regarding activities pertaining to their children. Children and parents were greeted at drop off and collection with friendly conversation overheard. The staff encouraged the children to engage positively with each other by adopting simple social rules such as turn taking, sharing in play activities and resolving minor disputes.
- Transitions were handled smoothly as the children were given ample time to complete one activity before starting the next.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(b) The cot room off the Rainbow room had 3 cots for the younger children requiring sleep. The remainder of the children who availed of sleep were accommodated on stackable beds in the Forest Friends 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. A partially sheltered area permitted outdoor play in all types of weather.

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 equipment in the smaller area for the younger age group consisted of swings, 2 plastic activity units and a tuff tray. The larger area had a plastic kitchen, ride on toys, rockers, goal posts and balls.

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 3-week menu plan with a variety of food ranging from meat and poultry freshly prepared onsite. The service provided breakfast from 8 to 9am. Morning snack was served at 10:15am which consisted of yogurts, bananas and melons chopped up. Dinner was served at 11:30am which consisted of chicken curry, rice and vegetables. A snack was served at 13:15pm consisting of rice cakes, fruit and buns. Evening tea was served at 15:15pm consisting of ham and cheese sandwiches with yogurt and fruit. Additional snacks were available for the children staying until 6pm.

Water was the drinks of choice with individual cups available in the care rooms.

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:

- On the day of inspection both the indoor and outdoor environment appeared safe. Risk assessments were conducted on a daily basis. The registered provider and the staff member had a clear understanding of their role and range of responsibilities to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the children.

Infection Control:

The following infection control measures were observed:

- 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.
- Childrens bed linen was stored in individual bags to prevent cross contamination.

Safe Sleep:

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

- Temperature of the cot room was maintained between 16 to 20⁰ C and between 18 to 22⁰ C in the Little Scholars room while children were sleeping.
- A sleep log recording the position, colour and breathing pattern was recorded at 10 minutes intervals on all sleeping children.
- Block out blinds were available which created an atmosphere conducive to sleep.

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 a person had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times 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 on the 17/06/2025.

(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 fighting equipment was last serviced on the 02/07/2025. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 04/10/2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in 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 for full day care. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28/03/2025 to the 27/3/2026.