

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Identifier:	TU2015SO021
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Name of Service:	Jollytots Playgroup
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Address of Service:	Srananagh, Sooeey, Co. Sligo
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Eircode:	F52 DE42
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Name of Registered Provider:	Melissa Dunmortier
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	19/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	13
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	S Killeen
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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Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Jollytots Playgroup is a community run full day care early years' service, which was first established in 1995. It is based beside a church in a rural village of Sooley in County Sligo. The service operates from a two-storey building with five care rooms. Three rooms were in operation on the day of inspection. The service also provides a service for school age children. The registered provider does not work directly with the preschool children.

Staffing

There were eight staff members employed to work in the service, six of whom were present on the day of inspection. These five members included the service manager and four staff employed to work directly with the pre-school children. Additionally, one adult is employed as a cook, and one adult is employed to work with the school-aged children.

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 9,11,16,23,24,25,26,27 and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 24 checking in and out and record of attendance.

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 in relation to regulation 23 safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child. An adequate response addressing the immediate action was received from the register provider 20/02/2026. See body of report for more information.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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)

The registered provider ensured that.

- (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- (c) There was 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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(2)

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that three new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection.

The following vetting information was available for three staff:

- (a) Three written validated references from past employers for two of the adults.
- (b) Three written validated references from reputable sources for two of the adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for eight staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting from the police authorities in another state was available for one adult who had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or more.

(4)

Three of the adult files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

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)-*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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 day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times throughout the inspection.
- (8) (a) The registered provider ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises when children were present in the service as evidenced in a sample review of rosters.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (i) Records pertaining to a staff roster was held for adults working within the service.
 - (j) A sample of medication administration forms were reviewed and contained the necessary information detailing the child's name, date and time, instructions for administration and storage of medication, and signatures belonging to staff, management, and parents.
- (3) These records were made available on the day of inspection to the inspector.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 main entrance to the service was secured on the inspector's arrival to the service and remained secured throughout the inspection. Access to the service was controlled by staff members.
- The boundary of the outdoor play area was secured with high level fencing.
- Cleaning supplies and equipment were stored in areas that were not accessible to children.
- Highchairs within the baby room were fitted with a 5-point safety harness and were in good sate of repair
- There was impact absorbent surfacing under high rise equipment in the outdoor play area and all play items were well maintained with no observable hazards.

Infection Control:

- Tables and highchairs were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes in both care rooms
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available to support effective hand hygiene. Older children were observed to wash their hands with support, before snacks, meals and after outdoor play.
- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- The playroom, sanitary facilities and outdoor area were clean and maintained in a hygienic condition with cleaning records available.
- Foot pedal bins were available throughout the service for the safe disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

- When discussed with staff, they were aware of their responsibilities for the safe administration of medication. No medication was observed to be administered on the day of inspection. Detailed care plans in place for the children who required them with all relevant information for safe administration of medications.

Safe Sleep:

- The service had a designated sleep room with appropriate cots available to children.
- Sleep checks were observed to occur every ten minutes.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were observed to be unobstructed throughout the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed in the care rooms.
- Fire extinguishers were on the premises and easily accessible.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. An Immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the day of the in relation to unsecure blind cords accessible to the pre-school children in the sanitary areas. On the day of inspection, the person in charge closed off the sanitary area as there was sufficient alternative sanitary facilities on the premises. Information received on 19 February 2026 confirmed that the blind cords were removed from sanitary area.
2. The sensory table in the outdoor area was left uncovered when not in use, posing as a risk of infection should vermin access it.
3. Low hanging wires were accessible to children from fish tank in the sensory room. These posed as a risk to children.
4. A radiator cover in the kitchen was broken, leaving exposed sharp wooden edges accessible to the children. This presents a risk of injury, such as cuts or splinters.
5. Large plastic boxes containing toys were stored on an insecure base in the kitchen accessible to the children. This creates a crushing or tipping hazard if the boxes or base were to shift.

Infection Control:

6. On the day of inspection, after nappy changing, the hands of the babies were observed to be not consistently washed, posing a risk of infection. Gloves and aprons were observed not to be removed after disposing of an unclean nappy, and prior to moving onto the next care activity of placing on a clean nappy, followed with redressing the child. This could lead to a risk of cross infection.
7. Foot-operated pedal bins used for soiled nappies were not sealed, resulting in a strong malodour in the nappy changing area. This lack of containment poses an infection control risk
8. The fridge where children store their lunches was not clean. This poses a risk of food contamination and the spread of infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The bathroom was closed immediately on the day of inspection and evidence submitted to TUSLA the following morning that the blinds have been removed. The Service will ensure blinds are checked regularly for wear and tear.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

2. The Tuff tray covered had recently ripped; we have removed it from use until the new cover arrives. All staff will be Remind that TUFF trays are to be removed from use temporarily if their cover becomes damaged
3. The fish tank has been removed from the area. Management will continue to do walk rounds to identify any cables accessible to the pre-school children.
4. A new radiator cover has been purchased and fitted. Management will ensure that radiator covers are checked regularly.
5. Toys have been removed from the dresser. Management will ensure that the dresser is kept clear of large items.

Infection Control:

6. We have gone over the correct steps and their importance with all staff. We are currently creating a new, more comprehensive step by step policy for our nappy changing procedure
7. New bins with a sealed lid were purchased. Management will ensure that any replacement bins in the nappy area state that they have a sealable lid.
8. The fridge was cleaned. Staff will ensure that the fridge is cleaned daily.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence of blinds removed.
2. Photographic evidence submitted.
3. Photographic evidence submitted.
4. Photographic evidence submitted.
5. Photographic evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

6. Photographic evidence submitted.
7. Photographic evidence of fridge cleaned submitted.
8. Photographic evidence of fridge cleaned submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) Children were signed in to the service on arrival and a review of previous attendance records demonstrated accurate arrival and departure times for each child.

Non-Compliance Information

3) (a)

(b) There was no daily record in writing to evidence persons entering the building.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A new visitors book has been purchased and is in use. A new visitors book has been purchased and is in use

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of new visitor's book submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 24 has been adequately addressed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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)

On the day of inspection eight adults working in the service were trained in first aid responder (FAR) and immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2) (a) (b).

The first aid box was fully stocked and was readily available and safely stored in a conspicuous position in the 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 fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-

(c) an authorised person.

(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 procedure was in place to practice and record monthly fire drills. The last documented fire drill was dated the 05th of January 2026.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the service was on file. Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated 10th February 2026.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) was available and open to inspection by-

(c) an authorised person.

(4) On the day of inspection, a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were observed to be displayed in a conspicuous place within the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) (b) The records for the smoke detection system indicated the last service was completed on the 18/11/2020.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Smoke detection maintenance has been completed. Annual checks will be completed.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of fire cert submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 26 has been adequately addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

On the day of the inspection, children were observed to be appropriately supervised at all times. Staff were strategically positioned across both indoor and outdoor environments, ensuring that all children remained within sight and sound. Supervision was active and attentive; staff were seen to sit closely with the children during mealtimes and remained directly engaged in their activities. Transition from outdoor to indoor was observed to be managed efficiently with staff communicating at all times what child were present or had been brought inside.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 adequate insurance was in place for the preschool service for 40 children up until 27th March 2026.