

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY116
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Name of Service:	Janes Montessori Preschool
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Address of Service:	Ballyneale NS, Ballyneale, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary
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Eircode:	E32 YV18
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Name of Registered Provider:	Jane McLoughlin
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	23/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary E91RF38
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan & Antoinette McNamara
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

Jane's Montessori pre-school is located in Ballyneale Primary school and offers a sessional service for children aged from 2 to 6 years. The early years service operates Monday to Friday, 09.15-12.15, 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

On the day of the inspection there were three staff working in the service. There was also one student. The registered provider is the designated person in charge and works directly with the children. All staff employed held qualifications at a level 6 and above on the National Qualifications Framework in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) management and recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,

Regulation 15 (1) (a-i) Record of a pre-school child,

Regulation 19 (a) Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,

Regulation 25 First aid and
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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

(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,

(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 registered provider is the person in charge and oversees the operation of the childcare facility. One deputy was identified.
- (b) The person in charge was present when the unannounced inspection commenced and facilitated the inspection process.
- (2) Recruitment records in respect of the four staff employed in the were reviewed and the following information was obtained:
- (a)(b) Eight required written and validated references were present on file in respect of each staff member.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the four staff within re-vetting of staff within the 3-year timeframe.
- (d) Not applicable. Review of the curriculum vitae indicated that police vetting was not required.
- (4) The staff employed to work directly with children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education and copies of the corresponding certificates were available.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children.

(2) During the morning session there were 12 children being directly cared for by 3 staff. One student was also present and was supernumerary to the adult child ratios on the day.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

(a) the name and date of birth of the child.

(b) the date on which the child first attended the service.

(c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service.

(d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service.

(e) authorisation for the collection of the child.

(f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention.

(g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.

(h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child.

(i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

A sample of five children's registration forms were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

(1)(a-i) The registration forms contained the required information as detailed under parts (a) to (j) of this regulation.

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

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

On arrival to the service the inspectors observed the children engaged in a range of free play activities in the outside area. This included bikes, scooters and balance beams. The children were observed to make their own choices of what and who they played with.

Healthy eating was promoted within the service. Snacks were provided by parents for the children.

Adequate, suitable food was observed on the day of inspection. Drinking water was available to the children.

Each child was given enough time to eat their snacks without being rushed. Children were encouraged to tidy up after snack time which helps promote independence.

The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their level of development. The privacy and dignity of each child was respected.

The staff were observed to supervise children's hand washing before snack and after returning inside from outdoor play.

A rest area was evident in the room. Children could use this area to relax. Children were able to use this area supported by staff if they were feeling unwell and were waiting to be collected.

Children had the opportunity to move about freely and explore their environment, both indoors and outdoors.

Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a competent and positive manner by the staff.

The children managed transitions well. When the school bell went, they formed a line to reenter the classroom to wash their hands. Following returning from the yard they formed a circle with their chairs and engaged in story time and songs with staff.

Physical and material environment:

The environment within the pre-school was comfortable and laid out to accommodate the needs of the children. The environment provided a wide range of activities appropriate to ages and stages of development. There were different interest areas provided in the room where equipment and materials of similar use were arranged together.

There was access to enough varied materials and equipment to support and strengthen the skill levels of the children.

Arts and craft materials were available in the room. The children were observed painting alphabet letters.

The pre-school shared a large, fenced yard with the school. There was a sheltered area with a bench available for the children to use. The pre-school also had a designated outside area for its own use. This had a retractable awning.

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

The service consisted of one large preschool room which was very well equipped with a range of toys, materials and furniture suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending the service. There were child sized tables and chairs for tabletop activities such as Montessori work, playdough, puzzles and eating at snack time. The room had a number of defined interest areas which were appropriately resourced, including the home corner, art and craft materials, a dolls house, small world materials, and dress up. There were low level open shelves

around the room where Montessori work, jigsaws/puzzles and manipulative play toys were easily accessible to the children.

The outdoor areas were fully enclosed to each side of the pre-school room. The children had a variety of toys and equipment outside including ride on toys, a playhouse, sand, water play and a kitchen.

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 entrance to the premises was secured with an electronic keypad to restrict unauthorised persons entering the premises and children exiting unsupervised.

Accident and incident reports reviewed were maintained in line with the service policy.

Infection Control:

Children were observed washing their hands at the sink in the classroom which had warm running water and paper hand towels for hand drying.

Tissues were available both indoors and outdoors for the children to use as required.

There were designated children's toilets available, which contained an adequate number of toilets and sinks for the children attending the service. Hand washing facilities were adequately stocked with paper hand towels and soap. There was hot running water in the children's toilets.

Administration of Medication:

A medication record recorded the details of any medications that had been administered in the service in line with the service's administration of medication policy. Any medication supplied by parents were stored in a safe and secure place in their original packaging and out of reach of children.

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) There were staff trained in first aid responder (FAR) available to the children attending the service.

(2) (a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An in-date insurance certificate was available for inspection to demonstrate that valid insurance was in place.