

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW233		
Name of Service:	Jellytots Pre School		
Address of Service:	16A St Patricks Avenue, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow		
Eircode:	A67 RP27		
Name of Registered Provider:	Angela Thompson		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	17/09/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	Mona Condon
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

Jellytots Pre-school currently is registered to provide a sessional service to pre-school children from two to six years of age. The service operates from 9.30am to 12.30pm and caters for a maximum number of 20 children at one time. It is located in a purpose-built premises located at the rear of a domestic property in Wicklow town. There is an outdoor area at the front of the premises where children have access to outdoor play equipment on a daily basis.

Staffing

There are four staff employed which includes the registered provider.

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.

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

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Acknowledgments

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the Registered Provider on 18/09/2025 in relation to a non-compliance identified Regulation 23, General Safety.

A response from the registered provider was received and accepted 18/09/2025.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

Four adults are employed in the service.

(a)&(b) Eight written and validated references were available for four adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of four adults

(d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months as an adult.

(4)

The four adults employed had 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.

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) Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children.
- (3) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection. There were four adults working directly with fourteen pre-school children on the day of Inspection.

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1) The written records regarding eleven pre-school children were reviewed. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the information listed above (1)(h) - (k) in relation to the service.
(3) A record of details listed above under (1)(h) - (i) were available for inspection.

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: General Safety:

- The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.
- Documentary evidence was available that fire drills were being carried out on a monthly basis as per best practice guidelines.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelving and were inaccessible to the pre-school children.

Infection Control:

- Children were encouraged to wash their hands regularly including before lunch and after using the toilet. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed and in accordance with the services infection control policies and procedures. A pedal operated bin was available in the sanitary area for the disposal of used paper towels.
- The premises play equipment, and materials were in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. Written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. Medication was stored safely. Staff were aware of the procedure to be undertaken should medication be required.

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

(2)(a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position next to the pre-school room.

(b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) A person with a current qualification in First Aid Response (FAR) was not available to the children in the service. It is acknowledged that the RP had booked a First Aid course commencing on 7 October 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

FAR Course has been booked and will be completed by qualified personnel. I have completed the theory part of the course, and I will complete the practical training and examination in December 2025.

Reminder has been placed in the service diary, 3 months prior to FAR expiry date, so that this will not re-occur.

Supporting documentation submitted

Certificate of completion of theory section of FAR course dated 6 October 2025.

Copy of email confirming date enrolled for practical course is 4 December 2025.

Summary Comment

It is acknowledged that the registered provider has taken steps to address the non-compliance. However, at the time of publishing this non-compliance remains outstanding. It will be checked on next inspection.

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 record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises. The last fire drill was recorded on the 8 September 2025.

(b)

A record was available detailing the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarm dated September 2024 and August 2025 respectively.

(4)

Notices were displayed in the care room, detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.

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

The children present were supervised at all times when indoors and outdoors during the session.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The insurance certificate was available and covers 22 children. It has an expiry date of 27th March 2026.