

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX058
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Jungle Box Childcare Centre FDYS
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Waterloo Road, Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y35 PR84
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Joy Keyes
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	19/04/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	59	PM	36
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This full day care service is located in the center of Wexford town. An early years service is provided to children aged from 6 months to 6 years of age. The service also provides a registered school age service. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5.30pm. The premises is a purpose-built two-story building. There were six early years rooms in operation on the day of inspection. There are toilets, nappy changing facilities, sleep rooms and two outdoor play areas for the use of the children.

### Staffing

There were 20 staff on the premises on the day of inspection including the manager and the registered provider who also works directly with the children. There were two staff employed under a community employment scheme. All staff working directly with the early years children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework

### 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 the following regulations:

- Regulation 9 Management and recruitment
- Regulation 10 Policies and procedures

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of child

Regulation 22 Food and Drink

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child

Regulation 25 First aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety

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 registered provider, person in charge, 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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) is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of “paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)” for “paragraphs (5) and (6)”, and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): “

*(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) (b)

The manager was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider arrived later on the day of inspection and was also available to facilitate the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were eight new staff employed in the service since the last inspection on 2 March 2021. These eight files were examined on the day of inspection.

(a)

There were 12 written and validated references available on file from past employers.

(b)

There were four written and validated references from reputable sources.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all eight new staff members.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as none of the new staff members had worked in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There were nine staff working directly with the early years children who held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

(6A)

There was one staff member employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.

### Non-Compliance Information

(4)  
There was one staff member employed who did not have evidence on file that they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

A copy of the staff members qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education was received by the inspector and is now on file in the service. The manager will ensure all staff have documents on file in the service prior to commencing employment stating that they hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

A copy of the staff members qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education was received by the inspector. The recruitment policy for the service was received by the inspector stating that all staff have documents on file in the service prior to commencing employment stating that they hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

The response and evidence submitted meets the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### **Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service**

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### **Compliance Information**

There were written policies, procedures, and statements, as specified in Schedule 5, available for the service. The policies reviewed on this inspection were the infection control policy and the policy on healthy eating. The policies reviewed on this inspection were found to be complete and specific to the setting.

### 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

There was an adequate number of staff always working directly with the children during the inspection.

#### Baby room

At 10.00am there was 1 baby under 1 years of age and 4 children aged 1 to 2 years of age in the care of 3 staff.

At 2.00pm there was 1 baby under 1 years of age and 4 children 1 to 2 years of age in the care of 3 staff.

#### Toddler room

At 10.05am there were 7 children aged 2 to 3 years in the care of 2 staff.

At 2.05pm there were 6 children aged 2 to 3 years in the care of 2 staff.

#### Ecce room

At 10.10am there were 14 children aged 3 to 6 years in the care of 3 staff.

At 2.10pm there were 6 children aged 3 to 6 years in the care of 3 staff.

#### Playschool 1

At 10.15am there were 12 children aged 3 to 6 years in the care of 3 staff.

At 2.15pm there were 5 children in the care of 1 staff.

#### Playschool 2

At 10.20am there were 13 children aged 3 to 4 years in the care of 3 staff.

At 2.20pm there were 13 children aged 3 to 4 years in the care of 3 staff.

#### Pre-playroom

At 10.22am there were 8 children aged 2 to 3 years in the care of 3 staff.

At 2.25pm there were 4 children aged 2 to 3 years in the care of 2 staff.

There were two staff employed under a community employment scheme who were available to assist the qualified staff as required in the early years rooms.

The manager was in the service on the day of inspection and was available to assist across the rooms as required. The registered provider arrived in the afternoon and was also available to assist in the rooms if required. The minimum ratio of adults to children was always maintained during the inspection.

### 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*

*(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*

*(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

(1)(a)

The manager ensured that each child's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of appropriate activities during the inspection including playing together in the outdoor areas and tabletop activities. Evidence of short-term curriculum planning was displayed in the early years rooms. Daily plans were also displayed in the early years rooms. Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development, for example children were encouraged to go to the toilet themselves and given help when required. There was a poster displayed "the five steps to managing emotions". Staff who spoke to the inspector said the children were encouraged to use this method to help them stay calm when feeling challenged.

Staff were observed playing with the children in the outdoor area. Staff were observed to be constantly engaged with the children in their care. For example, children were observed completing their artwork which consisted of collages of feathers. The other children in the room were given the choice of which activity they would like to do. Children were observed playing with plastic construction bricks.

Minor disputes between children were managed well and promptly. Staff were observed to supervise the children and encouraged them to settle their own disputes.

The materials and equipment available included a large range of developmentally appropriate equipment, arts and crafts materials, small cars, diggers, and dinosaurs. The play equipment was well organised and easily accessible to children. There was a range of equipment and materials available in the outdoor area which was varied and appropriate to the age and stages of the children attending the service. There were balls and ride-on toys provided to facilitate active play.

The outdoor areas were well resourced for the children to enjoy their outdoor play. The play area situated across from the main entrance had swings and a playhouse. The play area to the rear of the service had soft ground covering, a jungle gym, and a selection of balance bikes for the children to play on. There were cosy rest areas available to the children in all the early years rooms. Of note was the large tent in the playschool room two which provided children with a place to rest while still being supervised by staff.

1(b)

The manager ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place. During mealtimes younger children were spoon fed if they could not manage to feed themselves. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and given help as required. Dinner time was observed in the baby room. Staff were observed to be attentive to the children in their care. They sat with the children and talked to them during their mealtime.

Children who wore nappies had them changed regularly throughout the day and at other times when required. Nappy changing was observed by the inspector. The nappy changing area attached to the baby room was noted by the inspector to be clean and well organised. Staff were observed talking to the children while changing their nappies. Children were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards. The nappy changing policy was on display in the nappy changing unit next to the baby room. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards.

### 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 parents provided all the food and snacks for the children attending the service. The service had a healthy eating policy which was given to parents when their child started in the service. The children enjoyed a good variety of nutritious food on the day of inspection. For example, the children in the baby room were observed at dinner time. They had a variety of dinners which included spaghetti bolognese and beef casserole.

### Non compliance information

1. Children attending the service on a full day care basis were not served two meals and two snacks. This requirement is outlined in the document-Food and Nutrition guidelines for preschool services, Health Service Executive. Children attending the service on a full day care basis were served breakfast, dinner and an afternoon snack only.
2. There were several different methods of preparing formula in place in the baby room. These methods were contrary to the recommendation in the document - Food and Nutrition guidelines for preschool services, Health Service Executive. This document recommends that all formula given to babies in an early years setting should be made by the parents and given to the childcare professionals when the children arrive at the service. This measure is to prevent cross infection in the service.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1.  
The document - Food and Nutrition guidelines for preschool services, Health Service Executive has been circulated to staff. All children will be provided with breakfast with food from at least two food groups as outlined in the nutrition guidelines.
2.  
Parents have been asked to provide premade formula for all children who require formula in the service.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

1.  
A copy of the meal plan now in place in the service was received by the inspector.
- 2.

A copy of the e-mail sent to parents requesting them to provide premade formula for their children attending the service was received by the inspector.

### Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted meets the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

### 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 manager had taken the following steps to ensure the safety of the children attending the service.

##### General safety:

Access to the service was gained through the front door, which was made of glass, which allowed visitors to the service to be observed prior to gaining access to the service. There was a call bell system which alerted the receptionist to open the door. All radiators were thermostatically controlled. The fire doors were not obstructed.

The main stairway was well lit. There was a banister in place, the floor covering was well maintained with no obvious trip hazards. All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children attending the service.

##### Infection control:

Cleaning templates were available in the service to document the regular cleaning of the early years rooms, toilets and nappy changing areas. All hand wash basins in the service were equipped with warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and foot operated pedal bins.

Children were observed washing their hands before eating, after using the toilet and after messy play. Staff were observed washing their hands and using the hand gel provided by the service on a regular basis. There was a system in place for the regular cleaning of mouthable toys in the baby room.

### Safe Sleep

The service had a safe sleep policy. Staff were observed carrying out 10-minute observations on the sleeping children's colour, breathing and position while they were asleep.

### Non-Compliance Information

1. A baby under one years of age was observed asleep in a buggy fully dressed in the sunshine in the outdoor area. The inspector observed for several minutes and then alerted a childcare worker to the fact that the baby was asleep in a buggy in the full sunshine. On discussion with the staff member the inspector was not assured that the staff member understood the importance of complying with the safe sleep guidelines which were outlined in the service's safe sleep policy which was in place in the service. Following a discussion with the childcare professional the babies was brought to the sleep room, undressed, and placed to sleep in a cot.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. All staff have been updated on the safe sleep policy in place in the service. The issue of adhering to the policy will be included in the agenda for future staff meeting to ensure all staff are aware of the importance of adhering to the guidelines.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

1. A copy of the services safe sleep policy was received by the inspector. The policy includes that children under two should be facilitated to sleep in a standard cot in the designated sleep room. It also states that children should not be allowed to sleep in buggies.

### Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted meets the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

## 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 was a person trained in first aid for children immediately available to the children attending the early years service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the early years 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 firefighting 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)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place in the service on 27 March 2023.

(b) There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment was last serviced in September 2022, and the smoke alarm in January 2023.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the main entrance of the service.