

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX058
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Name of Service:	Jungle Box Childcare Centre FDYS
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Address of Service:	Waterloo Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y35 PR84
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Name of Registered Provider:	Kieran Donohoe
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Dates of Inspection Day 1:	03/07/2025
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Day 2:	04/07/2025
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No of pre-school children Day 1:	AM	51	PM	37
Day 2:	AM	37	PM	NA

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
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Inspection undertaken by:	E. Mc Garry C. Ryan
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

This full day care service is located in the centre of Wexford town. A preschool service is provided to children aged from 0 to 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 8:00 and 17:30. The premises is a purpose-built two-story building. There are six preschool rooms in operation in the service. There are toilets, nappy changing facilities, sleep rooms and two outdoor play areas for the use of the children.

Staffing

There are 34 staff employed in the service including a maintenance person, two people who work in administration and a person who is employed under a community employment scheme. The manager of the service is rostered to work in the service daily and is also available to assist in the rooms as required. All staff who are working directly with the 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 inspection 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 (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of child,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child,

Regulation 25 First aid,

Regulation 26 Fire Safety,

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.

Additional Information

A referral was made to the Health Service Executive Environmental Health Office on the 08 July 2025 to assess food preparation within the service following the decision to remove the kitchen from the premises.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
- (c) these Regulations.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The manager was the designated person in charge on both days of the inspection. There was a named deputy also available to deputise as required. The registered provider does not work directly with the children in the service and was also available on both days of the inspection.

(b)

The person in charge confirmed that they or their deputy are always present while the service is open.

Documentation was reviewed in respect of all staff employed to work in the service. This documentation met regulatory requirements as follows:

(2)(a)(b)

Two validated references were available on file for 33 staff members.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available on file for all staff members. The service demonstrated partial compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years in all cases. (see Regulation 23).

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were available for all staff members who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

Certificates of qualification for all staff members who work directly with children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Qualification Framework or qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

(7)

New staff who had started working in the service said they had an induction process which was supervised by the manager. There was evidence in place to demonstrate the induction process currently in place in the service. New staff stated they were aware of the policies and procedures in place in the service. Staff who spoke to the inspector stated they had staff meetings and one-to-one meetings with the manager to discuss their professional responsibilities and any concerns or ideas they might have to further develop the care provided for the children. Staff also confirmed they could approach their manager informally with any concerns they had. There were also certificates confirming staff had attended training on Children First, an online course which details childcare staff responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding of children in their care.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

There was one person employed in the service who did not have two written and validated references available on file in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

There are now two written and validated references available on file for the staff member in the service. The manager will ensure going forward all required written and validated references are available on file in the service for staff prior to commencing work in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the required references was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

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

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)(2)

During the inspection, there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the service.

Day 1

During the morning there were 20 staff members caring for 51 children.

During the afternoon there were 15 staff caring for 37 children.

Day 2

During the morning there were 17 staff members caring for 37 children.

On both days, the manager, admin staff and the caretaker were present on the premises.

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)

Children were provided with opportunities to engage in varying types of play throughout the inspection within each of the care rooms. For example, a staff member in the baby room was observed facilitating painting with the children in the afternoon.

The inspectors noted many of the preschool rooms had been developed since the last inspection. Of particular note was the little tiger's room which catered for children from 3 to 6 years of age. All areas of interest had been resourced and developed to cater for the children attending. There was a home corner, a shop, a dress up area and a dolls house. The toys and educational resources were well organised and displayed so as they were easily accessible to the children attending. Staff had also taken the time to display photographs of the various national schools that some of the children would be transitioning to in September. Staff who spoke to the inspector said this measure was to help the children familiarise themselves to their new surroundings.

The little Cheetahs room had been redeveloped, and interest areas were well thought and resourced. A large cosy rest area was inviting to the children with its soft mats, cushions, a canopy and fairy lights. There were dress up clothes, a home corner, art station, a nature table, construction area and open shelves.

All the preschool rooms had been renamed with an animal theme. Staff who spoke to the inspector said this gave the children ownership of the rooms and helps with their sense of belonging to their group of friends in their rooms. For example, one child was heard to tell another "I am going to little monkeys when I am bigger". The staff discussed with the inspectors how they transitioned children when moving to the next rooms and this was evident during the inspection.

All of the rooms had children's artwork displayed, birthday walls, photographs of their surrounding community and family photographs. Outside each of the rooms, a notice board displayed information for parents which

included the staff who worked in the room, weekly curriculum plans and photographs of work carried out by the children.

The service's policy outlined that outdoor play was an important part of the daily curriculum in the service. All children were observed to go out to play on the first day of the inspection. The three outdoor areas were well resourced for the children to enjoy their outdoor play. The play area situated across from the main entrance had swings, a playhouse and a sand pit for digging which could be covered.

The play area to the rear of the service was designed to facilitate play for the younger children. It had a soft ground covering, a jungle gym, and a selection of balance bikes for the children to play on. The area directly beside the little tiger's room was covered so that children could play even if it was raining. The staff had also planted sunflower seeds in pots for children to watch as the seeds grew.

(b)

The interactions between the staff members and children were responsive and caring. The staff members engaged with the children with warm tones and provided reassurance when needed. For example, in the baby room the staff members were observed to warmly engage with the children using their names and conversation. The staff members were observed to sit on the floor with the younger children. There was a large comfortable couch also for staff to sit and comfort smaller babies.

The staff were observed to respond to the children's needs promptly with nappy changing carried out regularly and as required. Staff communicated to the children prior to taking the child to the nappy changing room for nappy changes while talking softly and engaging in conversations with the children. Children were encouraged to use the toilet independently and gave help when required.

The transitions between activities were relaxed and calm. The mealtimes in the baby room were unhurried and calm. The children were observed to eat their food in the highchairs. Staff sat, fed the children and chatted to them making it a sociable and relaxing time for them. Throughout the rooms, staff were observed to sit at the tables with the children during mealtimes making it a social experience.

The rest areas in the service had been further developed since the last inspection with the addition of full-sized couches with large covers that could be laundered as required.

The service has a healthy eating policy which is shared in the recently developed parents handbook. The service provides breakfast and a fruit platter for the older children. The parents provided most of the meals and snacks in the service which were stored in fridges in the main care rooms.

art 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

Access to the service was gained through the glass door in a porch in the service. It was secured on arrival and remained secure for the duration of the inspection. There was an intercom system in place. The outdoor areas in the service were safe and secure.

Infection Control

The service was clean. There were daily and weekly cleaning schedules maintained. The service had an infection control policy. There was warm water to support hand washing, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and foot pedal operated bins provided across the service.

Safe Sleep

There were designated sleep rooms with full sized cots for younger children to sleep in. Older children were provided with cot beds to sleep on if required. Individual bed linen was available. Staff who spoke with the inspector were aware of safe sleep practices. Staff who spoke to the inspector were knowledgeable in the importance of adhering to safe sleep guidelines. For example, they were knowledgeable on how often a sleeping child is physically checked, recording the observations such as colour, position and breathing rate and temperature of the sleep room. Observations on the sleeping children's colour, position and breathing were carried out and recorded every 10 minutes.

Accident and Incidents

The service had an accident and incident policy in place in the service. A review of accidents and incidents which had taken place in the service were reviewed by the inspectors. Staff who spoke to the inspector were aware of their responsibilities in relation to the policy in place. Accident and incident reports reviewed by the inspector were signed by the parents as per the services policy.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. There were Garda vetting disclosures on file for all staff

members, however the vetting disclosure for 1 staff member was not dated within the previous 3 years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting.

Infection Control:

A number of practices observed during the inspection were at variance with the infection control policy in place in the service and the inspectors were not assured that consistent and effective infection control practices were in place throughout the service. The following was observed during the inspection:

1. Staff involved in nappy changing were also involved in food preparation. This practice is not considered best practice in a preschool setting. Best practice requires that preschool staff who are changing nappies should not also serve food this measure is to prevent cross infection in a service.
2. Children's hands were not consistently washed after nappy changing which posed a risk of cross infection in the service.
3. The inspectors were not assured that the staff members had washed their hands or sanitised the tables prior to serving the food.

Administration of Medication:

1. The administration of medication practice was not in line with the service's medication policy which states parents should sign a parental consent form prior to all medication being administered. It is acknowledged that staff request parents to sign the administration of medication record, but do not fill out the medication consent form as per the policy.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1.

Renewed garda vetting is now available on file in the service for the staff member. The manager will ensure all garda vetting for staff is renewed every 3 years as required.

Infection Control:

A memo was sent to all staff following the inspection which included the following:

1.

Staff who were changing nappies were requested not to serve food also. This is to prevent cross infection in the service.

2.

All staff were reminded to wash children's hands after nappy changing as stated in the services nappy changing policy.

3.

Staff were reminded to wash their hands and to sanitise the tables prior to serving food in the service. The managers in the service will support and monitor staff carrying out these practices in the service going forward.

Administration of Medication:

The administration of medication consent form has been updated. Staff have been reminded to ask parents to sign the form to give their consent prior to all medication being administered.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1.

A copy of the renewed garda vetting was received by the inspector.

Infection Control:

1,2,3.

A copy of the memo sent to staff was received by the inspector.

Administration of Medication:

A copy of the updated administration of medication form was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted are satisfactory to meet 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 were four staff trained in FAR (first aid responder) available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position available for use.

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)
Records were available demonstrating that fire drills take place monthly. The last recorded fire drill was documented as having been carried out on 25 June 2025.

(b)

A record was maintained of when the fire detection system, smoke alarms and firefighting equipment were last serviced in October 2024 and March 2025.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous places throughout the service

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.