

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2016LH003 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Just Kids Pre-School and Afterschool |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | 83 Windmill Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | A92 XR74 |
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|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Yvonne Carr |
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| <b>Service type:</b> | Part Time, Sessional |
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| <b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b> | 08/12/2025 |
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|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 21 | PM | 12 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

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| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate<br>180-189 Lakeshore Drive<br>Airside Business Park<br>Swords, Co Dublin |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | M. McDonnell  |
| <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).

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

Just Kids Pre-School and Afterschool is based on a residential street in Co. Louth. The service is registered to provide part time and sessional care to children aged 2-6 years old. The service provides Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). The service is based in a two-storey building with the main care room on the ground floor and another room is located on the first floor. There is an outdoor area to the rear of the premises, a kitchen and sanitary facilities. There is a registered school age service in operation.

### Staffing

The registered provider may work in the service in a supernumerary capacity. The registered provider employs 10 staff members. This includes a person in charge who works in a supernumerary capacity. There is also a cook and eight staff members who work directly with the pre-school children. On the day of inspection, a student was working in the service.

### 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9 Management & Recruitment, Regulation 11 Staffing Levels, Regulation 15 Records in Relation to a pre-school child, Regulation 19 Health,

Welfare & Development of Child, Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of a child, Regulation 24 Checking in and out and Record of Attendance, Regulation 27 Supervision, 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 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.

(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) There was a designated person in charge of the service, and there was a named person to deputise in their absence.

(b) Following discussion with the person in charge, and review of the staff roster it was confirmed that when the preschool service was in operation the designated person in charge or the named person in charge were on the premises.

(c) On discussion with staff members there was a clearly defined person and deputy person in charge to ensure lines of accountability.

(2) The recruitment files of the registered provider, 10 staff members and the student were reviewed.

(a)(b) The registered provider had a written reference available for herself and 22 written and validated references were available for the 10 staff members and the student.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure, dated within the last three years was available for the staff members and the student.

(d) A review of the documentation available demonstrated that the registered provider, 9 staff members and student did not require police vetting. The police vetting required for one staff member was available and appropriately translated.

(4) There was documentation available to demonstrate that eight staff members who worked directly with the pre-school children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications 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.*

*(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)-*

*(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 children attending the pre-school service.

(2) On the inspector's unannounced arrival, the adult child ratio was observed to be correct and remained so throughout the inspection. The following adult-to-child ratios were observed:

- In the main room there were 3 staff members, and 15 children aged between 3 years old and 4 years 3 months, who attended on a sessional basis.

- In the upper room there was 1 staff member, and 7 children aged between 3 years old to 9 years 10 months old, who attended on a sessional basis.
- On the conclusion of the sessional service there were 3 adults and 12 children attending on a part time basis.

The person in charge was available to provide cover for breaks and support with care for the children. The registered provider attended the service for the feedback meeting.

(8) (a) Following a review of rosters, and discussions with staff members the inspector could confirm that two staff members were always on the premises when the children were attendance in the service.

### 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

(1)(a)-(j) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service. A total sample of 6 child record forms were reviewed, to include children in attendance across both care rooms, and included the required information as detailed at (1) (a) to (j) above.

## 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

Water was accessible to the children within their rooms. Children's main lunch was provided from home by parents with the service providing an afternoon snack. The children's lunches were observed to be varied and nutritious with children's lunches including ham sandwiches, strawberries, crackers, rice cakes and cucumber. Staff sat with the children while they ate making it a calm experience. Some children had yogurt, and children were asked if they need a spoon. Children were observed to use the toilet independently with staff remaining close by for support if required.

##### Supporting relationships around children

The staff members were observed to interact kindly with the children within their care. A key worker system was in place throughout the service, and this was supported by various long- and short-term planning which were available for review. The plans reviewed on inspection reflected the activities that the children were participating in on the day which included painting gingerbread men and a previous activity of painting Christmas trees. Whilst some children participated in the art activity other children were observed completing activities of their choice, for example some children were playing with construction blocks whilst others were in the home corner. The children in both rooms were given the opportunity for sensory play which included play dough and water. All children were also observed enjoying the outdoor area on inspection. In particular a small group of children enjoyed finding small insects and chatting about them with peers and staff. The Inspector observed a sample of drop off and collections and these were observed to be interactive and supportive of children. Staff spoke to both the children and parents at these times. The service also stated they had an electronic application to provide parents with information.

### Physical and material environment

Appropriate relaxation areas were available in the rooms, with cosy areas available in both rooms. Activities and equipment were available on open shelving at a low level for children to access independently which included a range of books and sensory items. The home and shop areas in each of the care rooms, were equipped with a range of materials which included food, cutlery and dining items plus real-life items such as scales and tills. There were also babies, buggies and clothes available. The service had a large outdoor area which had a paved area alongside a grass area. The children had access to wooden and plastic climbing structures with a slide, wooden kitchens and a covered sandpit and a swing. Tyres and a large balance beam were also provided.

### 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 service had a secure entrance to the service with a buzzer system in place. This prevented any unauthorised access to the service and exit from the service by children.
- Blind cords were secured and were not accessible to children.
- Cleaning agents and medications were stored out of the reach of children.
- Stairways were fitted with handrails suitable to the children.

#### Infection Control:

- The children's lunches, which were brought from home and contained perishable items were stored in the fridge.
- The service was visually clean, and staff members discussed cleaning schedules for the service, which were available.
- The children washed their hands after coming in from outdoor play and before they had their lunch.
- The preventive action from the last inspection had been maintained as the paper hand towels were dispensed from a container.

### 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) The registered provider had a daily record of the children attending the service. On the inspectors' arrival this record was completed and reflective of the children in attendance. As children were collected from the service the inspector observed the record being updated.

(3) (a)(b) The inspector was requested to sign a visitor log. On discussion with the registered provider and person in charge this was reflective of those who have attended the service.

### 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 inspector observed staff supervising children primarily by sight throughout the period of inspection. The layout of the rooms supported staff in being able to maintain sight of the children. Staff were observed positioned in different areas of the room and observing children's interactions and play. Minor incidents between peers were observed and dealt with in line with positive behaviour management. During play some staff members played with small groups of children which was again observed to support positive interactions with peers.

Both rooms had access to their own separate sanitary facilities. In the upper floor room, the staff member was aware of when a child went to the bathroom, which was adjacent to their room. From the main room the children's sanitary facilities were in the hallway. A staff member was observed in this area when children were

using the sanitary facilities. When children came inside to use the sanitary facilities during outdoor play, staff members communicated with each other to ensure constant supervision.

The outdoor area is a long garden area with items such as a climbing frame, trikes, scooters and a swing child to play with. Staff members were positioned in various areas of the garden and were observed supervising children on the large equipment and were aware of children's play. Staff members responded to children's requests for assistance.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service was appropriately insured from 28 March 2025 to 27 March 2026.