

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017CC504
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Name of Service:	ABC Jelly Beans Playschool
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Address of Service:	Castletownsend Road, Carrigfadda, Skibbereen, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P81 H028
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Name of Registered Provider:	Diana Beamish
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	07/04/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Department, Child & Family Agency, Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co Cork P81 PD78
Inspection undertaken by:	M. O Reilly
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	N/A
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Description of service

	Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Service ID: TU2017CC504	1 of 12
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ABC Jelly Beans Playschool is an established privately owned early years sessional service that first opened in 2017. It is registered to accommodate a maximum of 22 children aged from 2 to 6 years and for the children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. At time of inspection the children were aged between 3 and 6 years. Daily opening hours are from 9:00 to 12:00 and from 12:15 to 15:15 hours each day Monday to Friday. The service is situated just outside the town of Skibbereen, Co Cork.

The service is located on the ground floor of a converted detached house that has been suitably adapted to provide an early years service. The premise provides an entrance hall, large playroom, kitchen/staff room, toilet facilities and a spacious outdoor play area to the rear of the service. There is an adequate set down parking area to the front of the building to allow for the safe arrival and departure of the children with their families.

Staffing

The 3 staff included the person in charge and a deputy. There was 1 of the 3 staff employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme. The registered provider is not office based. The staff who work directly with the early years children all hold a recognised qualification 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.

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*

(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 named person in charge and a deputy available to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge and the deputy were present on the premises on day of the inspection. The registered provider arrived later to the service to facilitate the inspection.

(2)

Documentation was assessed in relation to the requirements of Regulation 9 for 3 staff members and the registered provider. The following records were available for the 4 adults:

(a) Of the required 8 references, 5 references were from previous employers with the required records of validation on file.

(b) Of the remaining references, 3 references were from another source other than a previous employer with records of the required validation on file.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of the 4 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable as no staff member had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

There was evidence that the 3 staff members and the registered provider had attained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework for Qualifications.

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)
The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children on day of the inspection.

(3)
During the period of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations and an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.

There were 16 children aged between 3 and 6 years present in the sessional service with 3 adults in attendance. The adult child ratio was correct.

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) to (i)

A sample of 11 of the children's registration forms were reviewed and all were found to contain all of the elements of information as required by Regulation 15 (1) (a) to (i) inclusive.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis.*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) A written record of the attendance of each child on a daily basis was available and maintained in the service.
 - (i) A weekly staff roster was maintained in the service. The staff roster indicated the names of the staff, the arrival and departure times each day. The lunch time breaks for the two staff working full time were available on file.

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

Compliance Information

Basic Needs

- The service promoted healthy eating and the food provided by the parents and guardians for the mid-morning snack was observed to be healthy and nutritious.
- The children had easy access to their water bottles which were stored on a shelf at child height and allowed the children to help themselves to a drink when they felt thirsty.
- Children's toileting and hygiene needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. Self-toileting by the children was encouraged. A staff member was observed supervising and assisting where required each of the children when hand washing and hand drying, and the children were supported and encouraged prior to eating, post toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- Children's belongings such as coats and bags were stored on child height hooks in the entrance hall area so as to encourage independent dressing and organisation of their arts and crafts for home time. The children were observed largely independent putting on their hats and coats prior to playing outdoors.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The staff members were calm and relaxed whilst facilitating play opportunities and carrying out caring duties. Only low tones were used, and good eye contact was observed with the children during one-to-one engagement.
- The staff members were observed to work well together and the children were familiar with the routine.
- Staff helped children to recognise and understand sharing and working together as a group as seen on day of inspection when children were involved in various activities including tidying up. The children were observed waiting their turn, sharing the experience in relation to tabletop group activities for example the children were each given an easter basket to paint. The activity fostered the children's, fine motor skills along with confidence in language development through discussion about easter and the various colours they would paint their easter basket. Storybook time further encouraged language development as observed on day of inspection.

- Staff were observed to interact in a caring manner with the children building their confidence and communication skills within the setting.
- The mid-morning meal was observed to be a social occasion, as the children chatted freely in a relaxed environment. The staff sat with the children whilst they ate and were offered appropriate assistance by the adults, for example, the children were given plates and cutlery as required and were observed opening lunch boxes, cartons as required.
- During observed tabletop activities, the children were supported and encouraged by the staff, who acknowledged their efforts and achievements.

Physical and Material Environment

- The premise was found to be clean, bright, and well maintained and the openable windows allowed for natural light and ventilation.
- The playroom was furnished with an adequate number of tables and child sized chairs, and fixed open shelving displaying the wide range of play materials and equipment in an accessible way to the children.
- The spacious playroom afforded children the ability to move freely, as they participated in various activities, such as art and crafts, imaginary play and tabletop activities.
- The room was laid out in a thematic style to encourage and entice the children's interest to play, socialise and explore.
- The layout of the room promoted the independent access to all the materials to foster children's autonomy and freedom of choice.
- There were multiple tabletop activities to encourage fine motor skill play such as peg boards, threading and small construction items. There was a farm table with small animals. There was an imaginative/pretend play area which was furnished with a kitchen, associated utensils, dolls, buggies.
- Wall displays included the children's art works, pictures of the children and their families on the family wall., animals in Africa and photographs of community buildings located in Skibbereen town.
- There was a designated partially covered secured outdoor play area located beside the premise. The covered area allowed the children to use the outdoor play area in all weathers.
- There was an all-weather surface under the climbing frame and slide.
- The area was furnished with a hard surface for ride on toys, playhouse and block building.
- There was a gravelled area to allow the children to dig and fill buckets and trucks companionably.
- There were sand and earth tables and accompanying play utensils for the children's sensory enjoyment.

- The children had direct access to the nearby national school large secured all weather pitch where gross motor play was observed such as running, jumping and playing football on day of inspection.

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 children’s parents and guardians provided all food items, and the children had their own water bottle.
- Healthy, nutritious lunches were observed being eaten at the mid-morning snack such as sandwiches, rice cakes, rolls, yogurts, a selection of fruits and chopped and diced vegetables.
- Perishable food items in the children’s lunches were stored in the service fridge.

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:

- On the inspector’s arrival at the service, the main entrance door was found to have been secured and was maintained secure when not in use.
- There were no cleaning agents accessible to the child.
- Internal doors were suitably secured such as the kitchen door and adults toilet facility.
- The first aid box was appropriately stored and inaccessible to children.
- There were no cables or trailing flexes within the children’s reach in the playroom in operation.
- The outdoor play area was adequately secured with high metal fences and locked gates.

Infection Control:

- Suitable handwashing facilities was available in the playroom and in the children’s and adult toilet facilities. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels were in place.

- Handwashing by the children was observed before mid-morning snack, after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- Pedal operated bins were in place for the disposal of paper towels.
- The premises was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition and corresponding cleaning records were available. The openable windows allowed for natural light and ventilation.
- Tables were observed to be sanitised before snack time.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exit doors were noted to be maintained free from any obstructions

Outing:

- No outings took place at time of inspection.

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) The registered provider did ensure that there were staff available at all times with appropriate first aid responder (FAR) training. The FAR certification on file indicated that two staff held current up to date training.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was safely stored out of children's reach in the service. The first aid box was stored in an easily accessible position on the premises

(b) The fully equipped first aid box was available at all times to adults if in the event that a child may require treatment.

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 of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place on the morning and afternoon of the 23/03/2025
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment was last serviced in December 24 and the emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced in September 2024.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An up-to-date insurance certificate was available to indicate that up to 22 children were insured to attend the service. The expiry date was 27 March 2026. The records detailed the category of service covered which was sessional, the name and address of the premises and details regarding public liability cover, fire, theft, buildings, and outings cover.