

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017CC504		
Name of Service:	ABC Jelly Beans Playschool		
Address of Service:	Castletownsend Road, Carrigfadda, Skibbereen, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P81 H028		
Name of Registered Provider:	Diana Beamish		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	11/09/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM 4
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Social Work Dept, Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, West Cork P81 PD78		
Inspection undertaken by:	M Carney		
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		

Description of service

ABC Jelly Beans is a private service which is registered to provide an early year setting for children aged from 2 to 6 years on a sessional basis.

It operates from 09:00am to 12:00pm with the afternoon session operating from 12:15pm to 15:15pm.

The service is situated on a perimeter road in Skibbereen, west Cork. It comprises of a period style detached, 2-storey property which has been suitably adapted to provide a childcare setting.

The premises provides a large playroom, kitchen/staff room, toilet facilities and many outdoor play areas.

There is generous off-street parking in the front yard to allow the safe arrival and departure of the children with their families.

Staffing

The registered provider has employed 4 adults to work directly with the children; this includes a manager, designated person in charge and 2 childcare professionals.

Each adult had certification of Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training, ranging from Level 5 to Level 6.

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.

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 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)

The registered provider did not work directly with the children. An adult had been appointed as the person in charge and operated the service. An additional adult had been designated to deputise as required.

(b)

On the day of the inspection the person in charge and a childcare professional were present and available to facilitate the inspection process. Examination of the staff roster indicated that 2 adults were always on the premises during service operation.

(2)(a) & (b)

On the day of the inspection each of the 4 staff members files were reviewed and the following information was obtained –

There were 6 written past employer references available with 6 records of validation attached.

There were 2 written references from sources that the registered provider considered to be reputable. Records of validation was attached.

(c)

There were 4 up to date Garda vetting disclosures on file.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as the staff members had not worked or lived outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for a period of 6 consecutive months.

(4)

Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training were on file ranging from Level 5 to Level 6.

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

The following policies were reviewed in triangulation with the practices observed and information obtained verbally from the staff members.

The policy on healthy eating, infection control and the administration of medication policy, all of which were found to be compliant.

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)

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

(3)

There were 17 children aged from 3 to 4 years attending the morning session on a sessional basis with 2 adults in attendance.

There were 4 children attending the afternoon sessional period with 2 adults in attendance also.

The adult child ratios were 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 total of 24 children's enrolment forms were examined to ensure that they contained the required elements of Regulation 15 (a) to (i).
Each form was found to be compliant.

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) to (i)

It was reported by the person in charge that information pertaining to Regulation 16 (1)(a) to (h) was available in both hard copy and digitally. Some of which was displayed in the lobby for parents and prospective parents to view.

(j)

The person in charge scanned a copy of the relevant administration of medication logbook to the early years office later on the day of the inspection. There were no entries, and it was stated that there were no children attending the service that currently required either prescribed or emergency medications.

(k)

The service had a duplicate logbook to record any accidents or incidents that had occurred in the service. The last entry was recorded on the 14 February 2022. The information had been duly relayed to the parents as evidenced by their counter signature.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

The person in charge stated new parents and guardians were emailed information pertaining to the service at the start of each new pre-school year. In addition, the information was provided at open days and on request in hard copy.

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.

Compliance Information

- The parents and guardians supplied their children with lunches and drink requirements whilst attending the service.
- The lunch meal was eaten at approximately 10:45. This was a sociable, unhurried time with the children sitting with their friends around adjoined tables to foster a sense of community.
- The adults sat with the children whilst they ate and assisted with opening cartons and disposing of packaging when as required.
- Toileting was gently supervised by staff members and children encouraged to independently wash hands, flush toilets and discard of paper towels.

- Childrens belongings such as coats and bags were stored on child height hooks in the lobby so as to encourage independent dressing and organisation of their arts and crafts for home time.
- A rest area corner was appointed within the playroom for the children to opt out of scheduled activities if they so wished.

Physical and Material Environment

- ABC Jelly Beans occupied a period style, detached building which had been suitably adapted and modernised to provide a sessional early year setting.
- The premises was found to be clean, well maintained, airy and bright with many openable windows which allowed for natural light and ventilation.
- The playroom was furnished with child sized wooden chairs, 4 large tables, and fixed open shelving displaying the wide range of play materials and equipment in an accessible way to the children.
- The room was laid out in a thematic style to encourage and entice valuable play, interest, socialisation, and exploration.
- 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 animal figurines.
- There was an imaginative/pretend play area corner which was furnished with a well-maintained kitchen, associated utensils, dolls, buggies and dress up.
- Wall displays included a wall of photographs of community buildings pleasingly displayed. There were clocks and displays of the children's eye colour art works.
- The children had direct access to a secured compact garden which was partially canopied to allow the children to use the outdoor garden in all weathers.
- The area was furnished with hard surface for ride on toys slides, see-saws and a playhouse.
- There was a gravelled area to allow the children to dig and fill buckets and trucks companionably.
- There were balance tyres, sand tables and utensils for the children's sensory enjoyment.
- The children had access to the nearby schools large pitch where gross motor skill games were played such as football.

Supporting Relations Around the Children

- The staff members were observed to work well as a team with smooth transitions between activities. They were found to be patient, friendly and engaging with the children, both on a one-to-one basis and individually when facilitating toileting and organising the lunch break.
- Low tones and good eye contact was maintained, and the children were relaxed, happy and familiar with the staff.
- Staff members had embarked on training to enhance childcare skills such as Lamh, to assist with signing to accommodate non-verbal children.
- The service was closely integrated with the local community, with the children enjoying a visit from the local Garda and participating in yoga with a local instructor.
- A local national school principal had visited to discuss transitions to big school and introduce uniform wear.
- Parents and guardians were invited to share and demonstrate job roles and creative skills. It was reported that a parent had attended with 2 baby calves for the children's learning and entertainment.
- Communication with parents about service issues was conducted via digital applications both in group and individual form.

Implementation of Programme of Care.

- It was reported by the person in charge that the children followed a play-based programme which allowed flexibility for child led and the children's emergent interests.
- A visual daily timetable displayed in the playroom informed that there was sufficient time allocated for free play, scheduled activities, outdoor play, lunch and circle time.

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

- ABC Jellybeans operated a healthy eating policy and this was adhered to as observed by the healthy, nutritious and varied meals eaten at lunch time.
- All food and drink items were supplied by the parents and guardians.
- Lunches were seen to be nutritious, varied and sufficient for example, fruits, crackers, wraps, meat and cheese sandwiches, yogurts and dips and cheese biscuits.
- The children had easy access to their labelled water bottles which were stored in a low crate and allowed the children to help themselves to a drink when they felt thirsty.
- Plates, place mats and cutlery were available to the children as required.

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:

- Both the secured fencing and secured main door restricted the children from leaving the service unsupervised. Unauthorised access was also restricted.
- Internal doors were suitably secured such as the kitchen door and adults toilet facility.
- Emergency exits were unobstructed.
- Staff members personal belongings were store out of reach of the children and stored in the kitchen.
- Cables and flexes were not accessible to the children.
- Openable windows were not accessible to the children.
- Cleaning products were out of reach of the children.
-

Infection Control:

- The service was clean and well maintained. It was reported that the staff members were responsible for cleaning and conducted a deep clean on a weekly basis.
- Sanitising units were placed out of reach of the children for adult use.
- Good hand washing practise were observed with children washing hands after using the toilets, after outdoor play and prior to lunch.
- The children had access to 2 toilets and wash hand basins installed to their height for ease of hand washing. They were clean and well maintained.
- Step ups and potties were suitably stored off the floor.
- An additional sink unit was installed in the playroom to provide additional facilities for hand washing and clearing up after arts and crafts.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water was available and reregistered at 38.7 degrees Celsius throughout the service.
- Liquid soap, and paper towels were available for hand washing purposes and strategically places hand washing posters were visible to the children to prompt the correct hand washing technique.
- Adults had their own toilet within the wheelchair access facility.
- Spare clothes were stored in labelled bags.
- Tissues were available for nose hygiene.
- Lidded and non-contact pedal bins were in operation.

Administration of Medication:

- It was reported that the staff members were familiar with the procedures that are to be followed in the event of a child requiring medications.
- There were currently no children attending the service that required medications.

Fire Safety:

- The fire door was unobstructed.
- Fire cylinders were tethered to the walls.
- In conversation with the person in charge it was reported that staff were familiar with the procedures that are required to be followed in the event of a fire

Outing:

- It was reported that outings had resumed post Covid-19 pandemic. Children transitioning to national school had enjoyed a trip to the local soft ball area. It was reported by the person in charge that staff members and parents had followed the outing policy and adhered to one-to one adult child ratios.

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 person in charge stated and evidenced that 2 staff members were currently undergoing first aid responder training (FAR) with a completion date on 08 September 2023.

(2)(a) & (b)

The first aid bag was stored in the kitchen on a high shelf out of reach of the children but accessible to the adults as required.

On inspection it was found that the first aid bag was suitably stocked with the required requisites.

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) The service displayed a template in the kitchen to evidence that monthly fire drills had been conducted. The last drill was in September 2023. There were 18 children present with 3 adults supervising the event. It took 2 minutes to complete.
- (b) A record was in place which detailed the number, type, and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms. The most recent service had been conducted in November 2022.
- (4)
- Fire evacuation plans were displayed throughout the service to provide visual guidance of the procedures that are to be followed in the event of a fire.

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 displayed to indicate that up to 22 children were insured to attend the service on a sessional basis.

The expiry date was 28 March 2024.