

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2020GY003
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Jolly Tots at the Meadows
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	4 Meadow Grove, Milltown Road, Tuam, Co. Galway
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H54 NW81
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Elaine Tierney , Martina McDonagh
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	23/02/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	39	PM	36
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Kelly
<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 was established in 2020 and operates a Full Day Care service from 7.30am to 18.30pm from Monday to Friday. It caters for children from 0 to 6 years .The service is located in a residential housing estate on the outskirts of Tuam, Co Galway. The service comprised of 4 playrooms (2 downstairs and 2 upstairs), a dedicated sleep room, sanitary areas, and kitchen and staff/office space, there was also a well-equipped outdoor play area to the rear of the premises. There was also a covered play area with direct access from the Toddlers playroom.

### Staffing

The two registered provider work directly with the children. There are 11 staff in total 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 regulations 11; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 9,19 and 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 providers, 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) The registered providers were the designated persons in charge and there was a named persons who were able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the registered providers and were on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

It was confirmed that there were 12 adults working in the service, which included the registered providers, a kitchen staff member and a student on work placement. All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 22 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.

(b) There was 2 written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 1 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) There were 10 adults working directly with children who had obtained at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

On the morning of first day of inspection, there were 39 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning and 36 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.

At 10.30 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

(2) Baby room, there were 2 adults caring for 6 infants/babies.

Toddler's Preschool room there were 2 adults caring for 7 children.

Playschool room there were 2 adults caring for 11 children.

Montessori room ( 3 years plus), there were 3 adults caring for 15 children.

(8)(a) The staff roster of the service indicated that there were two adults on the premises at all times during the operational hours of the service.

### 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

##### Supporting relationships :

- The atmosphere between the children and the adults was calm and unhurried throughout the inspection.
- Staff provided parents with the opportunity to share information about the children's experiences, a daily record was sent home each day for all the young children, and this was done via a communication book. The parent gets information in relation to the activities of the children, such as what they ate and when they slept or rested.
- Adults sat at the tables and on the floor with the children when helping with jigsaws and various other play activities. The staffing the baby room were observed sitting on the floor encouraged ,comforting and playing with the young children in their care.

##### Basic Needs:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the service collaborates with parents to support healthy eating within the service. Children ate their lunches and snacks in their playrooms. The service had a cook and the home cooked meals on the days of inspection appeared appetising and healthy. The main meal of the day was bacon, vegetables and potatoes . Younger children were encouraged by the staff member to self-feed and the staff sat nearby and offered assistance when required. The children were not rushed and when they were finished, they had their hands and faces cleaned and could move around the room and play and wait until all of the children were finished.
- Older children could access the toilets on their own or they asked the staff member for assistance.
- The children had access to low level hand washing sinks in the children's sanitary areas so the children could wash their hands without adult assistance. Soap, paper towels and tissues were also available. This was observed on the day when children were seen going to the hand washing sink prior to mealtime and also after meal time.

- All of the children in the service got an opportunity to use the outdoor play area on numerous occasions throughout the day. An area was also covered so could be used in all weather conditions.
- The children under 2 years of age were put down to sleep in a cot room, on the day of inspection children were put down to sleep in standard cots in this room. A staff member physically checked the children every 10 minutes and recorded the temperature of the room, colour and position of the child as they slept. The staff stayed in the sleep room with the young children until they were asleep.
- Children aged under 2 years of age were also put down to sleep in the Toddler room that was converted into a sleep room, when required. Children not requiring sleep or that woke were facilitated in the adjoining covered outdoor space or in another playroom, until the all the children were awake.

## Non-Compliance Information

1. Soft seating or relaxation areas were not available in all of the playroom upstairs, children attending on a full day care basis in these playrooms did not have access to an area that they could sit, rest or relax through the day.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

A sofa and cushions are ordered for the playrooms upstairs, and we will ensure that there will always be soft seating for the children to use.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

A copy of the invoice for the sofa was submitted to the Early year's inspectorate.

## Summary Comment

The actions and the evidence submitted were reviewed, the non-compliances identified under regulation 19 have been adequately addressed.

## 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

1. Powdered infant formula for the young children in the Nursery room was prepared on the premises by the staff and not prepared in accordance with the Food Safety Authority best practice guidance.
2. There was a number of areas in the creche that had areas of peeling paint or sections of interior window ledges that were void of paint, which made it difficult to effectively clean these areas.
3. The sleep room was used as a storage area for buggies, which may pose a risk of cross infection to the sleeping children.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### Infection Control:

1. Parents were informed that bottles must be made prior to creche in accordance with the Food Safety Authority best practice guidance, all parents were understanding of this and it was implemented immediately.
2. Areas of the creche that required paint have been repainted and these areas will be monitored by management to ensure that this does not occur again.
3. Buggies have been removed from the sleep and are stored in an appropriate manner. This will be monitored by management.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted to the early year's inspectorate.

#### Summary Comment

The actions and the evidence submitted were reviewed, the non-compliances identified under regulation 23 have been adequately addressed.