

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

**Tusla I.D:** TU2023MO002

**Name of Service:** Junior Junction Preschool

**Address of Service:** Unit 1, Pound Street, Swinford, Co Mayo. F12N768

**Email Address:** juniorjunctionpreschool@yahoo.com

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Rachel Hanahoe

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Drop-In</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Sessional</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Childminding</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Temporary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Proposed service type:** Parttime and Sessional Services

**Proposed Number of Children:** Maximum of 22 children attending sessional services and 18 children attending parttime services.

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection:** The service has capacity to accommodate a maximum of 22 children attending sessional services and 18 children attending parttime services from 08:30 to 13:30 hours. Sessional services are proposed to operate from 9:00- 12:00 hours.

**Registered service:** Registered Part Time / Sessional Service for 22 Children (Max 18 Part Time)

**Date of Inspection:** 1 7 0 7 2 0 2 3

**Inspection Undertaken by:** M Farrell

**Title:** Early Years Inspector

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:** Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA,  
Child and Family Agency,  
2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

<b>Rationale for Inspection</b>
<b>Proposed New Service</b>

**Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office**

**Registration Status:** Registered Part Time / Sessional Service for 22 Children (Max 18 Part Time)

**Date of Registration:** 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Description of Service</b>	The proposed service is to be a privately operated, parttime and sessional service catering for children from 2 to 6 years of age and to open daily from 8.30 to 13.30 hours. It is proposed to operate one playroom catering for up to 22 children attending sessional services and eighteen children attending parttime services.
<b>Premises</b>	The premises is located in a section of the ground floor area of a two-storey commercial unit building that has been adapted for childcare service provision. There is a large playroom, office, kitchen, storeroom and sanitary accommodation in the premises. The service has direct access to the rear of the building to an enclosed outdoor space for the sole use of the service.
<b>Staffing</b>	The service will initially employ three adults including the proposed registered provider and a relief staff member. The number of staff employed will increase dependent on numbers of children enrolled in the service.
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under four themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the Child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to the registering application. 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.</p>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection.

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### 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.

#### Requirement met:

(1)

(a) The requirement has been met.

The proposed registered provider is to be the designated person in charge and the service has a proposed named deputy person in charge.

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) It is proposed that initially two adults will work with the children availing of sessional services and part-time care and maintain the adult: child ratios of;

- 1:11 for children aged between 2 ½ -6 years and  
1:5 for children aged between 1-2 ½ years attending sessional services.
- 1:6 for children aged between 2 - 6 years of age and  
1: 8 for children aged from 3 to 6 years of age attending parttime services.

The service proposes that as numbers increase, additional staff will be recruited to accommodate up to 22 children attending sessional services and 18 children attending part-time in the service.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(2) A registered provider—

(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016,

*shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

**Requirement met:**

(1) (a)

The requirement has been met.

The playroom has a wide variety of age-appropriate toys and equipment available at a low level to facilitate a child-led learning environment. The toys and play equipment are suitable for the proposed age range of the children to attend and are appealing laid out in clearly labelled defined areas of interest. The interest areas are well resourced such as a kitchen area, art and craft area and dress up area with small mirrors beside a low-level stage for performing. The transport area has a rug with roadway markings to play with the toy cars, tractors and wooden trainset provided and the construction area has numerous toys for building and creating structures. There are puzzles of varying degrees of complexities in addition to a range of tabletop activities such as bead threading. A doll's house with furniture and figures is provided for imaginative play with musical instruments available in the open shelving systems. A range of age-appropriate books are displayed with their covers visible to facilitate selection by children in the library area. A large plastic table is set up with plastic cutters and shapes for play activities with playdough.

The tables and chairs in the playroom are suitable for the age range of the children proposed to attend. A storeroom located off the playroom holds additional equipment for rotation in the playroom such as a large garage.

Adequate amounts of outdoor play equipment are located in the outdoor space for the proposed numbers of children including a sand table, kitchen, playhouse, balls and bats, spades, buckets and a selection of ride on toys. A low-level table and chairs are also available in the outdoor area in addition to wooden seating created on low-level walls.

(b)

The requirement has been met.

There is a large rest area with soft seating beside the library area creating a cosy environment where children can sit and relax if they wish. Three stackable beds are to be available to children who may wish to rest/sleep while in the service.

(2) (a)

The requirement has been met.

The proposed service has exclusive access on the premises to a secure enclosed outdoor area with ground coverings of artificial grass and wooden bark with a canopied area extending from the building over pea gravel. The area is enclosed by wooden fencing and has a large metal access gate that has securing mechanisms in place to prevent a child from leaving unnoticed and to restrict unauthorised access. The outdoor area is accessed directly from the rear of the building via a rear entrance door.

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### Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services

#### 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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- It is proposed that snacks and meals for the children will be provided from home. A healthy eating policy has been developed for the proposed service and the proposed registered provider plans to provide parents/guardians with information on healthy nutritious snacks/food items in line with the service's policy.
- Potable water is available in the service.

### 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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

#### General Safety

- The entrance doors have securing mechanisms in place to prevent children from leaving the service unnoticed and people from entering without authorisation.
- Cleaning products are stored in a secured cupboard in the kitchen which has a high securing mechanism in place and is to be inaccessible to children.
- The emergency exit routes are free from obstruction.
- The toys and play equipment are age-appropriate, clean and in good condition.
- A red pull cord in the children's sanitary area has been secured out of reach of the children.
- There are safe storage areas for medication if required in the playroom and the kitchen.
- Blind cords on windows are secured using securing devices.
- Heater covers are secured to walls to prevent them from toppling over.
- Storage systems for toys have broad stable bases.

#### Infection control:

- A refrigerator is provided in the playroom for the storage of perishable food items.
- Aprons and gloves are provided for nappy changes in the sanitary unit.
- Outdoor waste storage bins are inaccessible to children in the service.
- Cleaning schedules and checklists are in place for appropriate areas in the service.
- A supply of drinking water is available in the service.
- Foot pedal operated bins are provided in the playrooms and sanitary units for the disposal of general waste.

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### 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

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) Evidence of the completion of first aid training (FAR ) for children was available for one proposed staff member in the service with an expiry date of the 23 August 2024.
- (2) (a) There is a suitably labelled equipped first aid box conspicuously stored on high shelving in the playroom.
- (b) The first aid equipment is proposed to be always available to children attending the service.

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) (a) Copies of the templates for the recording of all monthly fire drills to take place on the premises are available in the service.
- (b) A record is available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The firefighting equipment was serviced/maintained on the 7 July 2023 and the fire detection and alarm system was maintained on the 11 July 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire are displayed in the hallway with diagrams of the proposed service’s evacuation routes displayed throughout the service.

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### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

Full insurance was submitted to the Registration Office valid from 28/08/23 until 27/08/24 for a maximum of 22 children on a Part Time / Sessional basis.

### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 – Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities*

#### Requirement met:

- (a) No obvious defects were observed in the building structure.
- (b) The main entrance door to the lobby area at the front of the service is securable and has a bell system to allow the staff to control access to the service. A keycode securing mechanism positioned at a high level is in place on the internal door from the lobby to the playroom to prevent children from leaving the playroom unnoticed. There are securing mechanism in place on the internal doors leading to the kitchen and storeroom located off the playroom. The gate in the enclosed outdoor area has securing mechanisms to prevent unauthorised access and children from leaving the area unnoticed.
- (c) **Lighting:**  
There is natural light from windows and artificial lighting provided in the premises which is adequate and suitable for the provision of a childcare service. The light fittings light fittings in the playroom and in the sanitary areas have protective covers.  
  
**Heating:**  
Heating is provided by electrical storage heating with heaters that have protective wooden covers in place. The playroom air temperature and sanitary area temperatures were recorded between 18-22°C as required.  
  
**Ventilation:**  
There are openable windows in the playroom to allow ventilation of the room. The windows in the lobby area are openable and have trickle vents. The children’s sanitary units have a mechanical ventilation system in place and the adult sanitary unit has an openable window to ventilate the area.

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	<p>(d) There are cleaning schedules and cleaning recording templates in place for all areas of the service. The playroom and sanitary areas are clean, and the equipment is in good condition.</p> <p>(e) Sanitary facilities were provided in the service as follows:</p> <p><b>Child sanitary accommodation</b> A sanitary unit with two toilets, two wash hand basins and nappy changing facilities are provided off the hallway at the rear of the premises for the children's use. Warm water recorded below 43°C, liquid soap, paper towels and foot pedal bins are provided in the sanitary units for handwashing and drying purposes.</p> <p><b>Adult sanitary accommodation</b> The proposed service has adult sanitary accommodation with one toilet and handwashing facilities provided.</p>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	<p>(d) Water leaked from one of the pipes on to the floor near the water heater in the children's sanitary area during the inspection.</p> <p>(e) The bin provided for disposal of nappies in the nappy changing area is hand operated and not foot pedal operated as required.</p>
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	<p>The proposed registered provider advised in a written response that:</p> <p>(d) Action was taken to replace the valve to stop the leak.</p> <p>(e) A new foot pedal operated nappy disposal bin was purchased.</p> <p>Evidence submitted: The proposed registered provider submitted photographic evidence of the replacement valve and foot pedal operated nappy disposal bin.</p>
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The requirements have now been met.

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### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.
- (4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—
- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and
  - (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both,
- the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) There is adequate clear floor space in the playroom measuring 42.7 square metres which can accommodate the proposed maximum of 22 children attending sessional and 18 children attending part-time services.
- (2) The clear floor space of 42.7 square metres can accommodate a maximum of 18 children aged between 2 and 6 years attending part-time services and 22 children aged between 2 and 6 years attending sessional services.
- (4) The minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear space is available in the playroom for the proposed 22 children to attend sessional services when sessional and part-time services are contemporaneously provided in playroom.