

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2025CC005
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Name of Service:	Julie Bee's Preschool
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Address of Service:	Gurrane NS, Garranewaterig, Innishannon, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	T12 C799
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Name of Registered Provider:	Julie Butler
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	27/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	9	PM	
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Administration Office, St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurranaברה, Cork. T23X440.
Inspection undertaken by:	D Cotter
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Julie Bee's Preschool is a registered sessional service. Children aged 2 to 6 years are accommodated and can avail of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme from 8.50am to 11.50am, each Monday to Friday, over 38 weeks of the year. A registered school age service is also provided.

The service operates from a classroom within Gurrane National School, in Innishannon, Co Cork. Children's and adults' sanitary facilities are available adjacent to the classroom and there is a designated outdoor play area at the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are three adults attached to this service. The early years service is operated by the registered provider, and an emergency contact person is also available. A student on placement was also present on the day of inspection.

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 -

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

Additional Information

This inspection was triggered by information received by the Inspectorate.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 was in charge of operating the service. An emergency contact person had been nominated who could act as a deputised person if necessary.

(2)

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that no new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. On the day of inspection, one student was present. A total of one file was reviewed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all for adults.

(d) Police vetting was not required for any of the adults attached to the service as they had resided outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

(4)

A qualification was not required for the student.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) (b)

The registered provider arrived at the same time as the inspector. The inspector arrived to the premises at 09:50 am and the service had been in operation since 08:50 am. Upon discussion, it was confirmed to the inspector that the registered provider had left the premises, leaving the service without a designated person in charge.

(2) (a) (b)

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

There was only one validated reference available from a previous employer in relation to one adult attached to the service. A second reference was unavailable on the day of inspection. This posed a risk to the children due to the registered provider failing to properly assess the suitability of an adult to work with children.

(3)

Following a review of staff files, it was evident that vetting procedures were not carried out prior to an adult commencing in the service. This was not in line with the services recruitment policy. This posed a risk to children due to the registered provider failing to properly assess the suitability of an adult to work with children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) (b)

In her written response, the registered provider outlined how the designated person in charge would remain on the premises for the duration of each session.

(2) (a) (b)

In her written response, the registered provider stated that the required reference had been obtained and verified.

(3) The response also detailed how new recruitment compliance checklists had been developed to ensure that vetting procedures would be completed prior to any adult having access to children.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the required reference and validation, a copy of the staff roster and a copy of the recruitment compliance checklist were submitted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance's identified under Regulation 9 (1)(b), (2)(a)(b), and (3) have been adequately addressed.

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

On the day of inspection, the following policies were examined:

- Policy on infection control.
- Policy on accidents and incidents.
- Policy on staff absences.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Recruitment policy.
- Staff training policy.

The above policies were observed to contain the relevant details to meet regulatory compliance.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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.

(8)
(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(8)
(c) The registered provider, who operated the service single handedly had nominated a designated person, who lives within a reasonable distance. This adult can be available to attend the service in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

(3)
The registered provider failed to ensure the minimum number of staff were working directly with children for the duration of the preschool session. The ratio was not maintained for the duration of time in which the registered provider left the premises, leaving an unqualified adult alone with the nine children aged between 2.8 years and 4.6 years. Allowing unqualified adults alone with the children puts the safety of the children at risk.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In her written response, the registered provider stated that the ratio would be maintained at all times in the future. The registered provider stated that they would not leave the premises during operational hours unless another suitable qualified adult was present.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the staff roster and an updated supervision policy were submitted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified under Regulation 11 (3) has been adequately addressed.

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:

- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1)
(k) The registered provider had ensured that a record is maintained of any incidents or accidents which occurred in the service. There was one record available for review since the last inspection. This record contained the necessary details and had been shared with and signed by the parent. The registered provider stated that only one incident had required a report since the last inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

(i)
The registered provider did not have a roster in place despite the policy on staff absences stating that a roster would be available and maintained. It is acknowledged that there were staff sign in and out records available for review.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In her written response, the registered provider stated that a formal roster has been put in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the new staff roster was submitted as evidence.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified under Regulation 16 (1)(j) has been adequately addressed.

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

(1)

(a) Basic Needs:

- Children were observed to play outside on the day of inspection.
- The room had been arranged to ensure freedom of movement between the different areas of interest.
- The room was equipped with a suitable rest area should any child need to rest.
- On the day of inspection, the staff working with the children were sensitive and responsive in their approach to and care of the children.
- Children's toileting needs were attended to promptly and prompts were given to children throughout the day to use the bathroom and wash their hands.
- This service did not have the facilities for nappy changing. On discussion with the registered provider, it was reported that the policy of the service was not to enrol nappy wearing children, or to request a parent to remove the child and change their nappy should the need arise.
- Staff were observed to be adept at redirecting behaviours and managing conflict. For example, when two children were arguing about a toy, a staff member was observed to stop the argument by touching each child on their shoulders, coming down to the children's level and asking them to talk about the problem. The children and the staff member then came up with a solution together
- There was evidence that children's voices were listened to. The room was decorated with children's artwork and pictures of the children's families. There was also a community wall with items of interest within the village clearly marked. Making children, their families and their community visible to children ensures that children feel safe and secure in their environment.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- The midmorning snack was observed to be served to the children at 10.30 am. The food appeared to be nutritious. Examples of the food included wraps, fruit, rice cakes and cheese.
- The service had a supply of food should any child forget their lunch.
- Children had access to water at all times throughout the inspection.

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

- On the day of inspection, supervision of children was primarily by sight.
- Children were appropriately supervised while in the care room and in the outdoor area.
- While using the bathroom independently, children were supervised by sound.
- The layout of the service lends itself to the easy supervision of children.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required

(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

(d) the service appeared to be clean, and a cleaning schedule was in use in the care room and sanitary accommodation.

(e) The service was equipped with one toilet and a handwash basin for use by children. This room was equipped with warm running water, liquid soap and handtowels. The waste was managed appropriately with a foot operated pedal bin. As stated in the services infection control policy, there is no dedicated nappy changing facilities.

Non-Compliance Information

(d) The laminate tiles on the floor of the children's sanitary accommodation were not properly maintained. The corners of the tiles appeared to be lifting which posed a tripping hazard to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

In her written response, the registered provider detailed how the damaged floor tiles had been replaced and new floor covering had been laid.

Supporting documentation submitted

A photograph of the new floor was submitted to the inspectorate as evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified under Regulation 29 (d) has been adequately addressed.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the pre-school service, and
 - (b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider has ensured that the complaints policy for the service specifies:
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,
 - (b) the way such a complaint shall be dealt with, and
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the way it is being dealt with.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2) (a) (b)

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

There were no records of complaints available for review on the day of inspection. Through discussion with staff, it was evident that informal complaints had been made to the service by parents. The services policy on complaints is clear in the manner in which informal complaints are dealt with and that these will be recorded. However, this policy was not followed. This poses a potential risk of leaving the safety and wellbeing of children unaddressed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In her written response, the registered provider detailed how the complaints procedure had been updated, and any informal complaints had been filed retrospectively.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the updated complaints procedure and a template for the recording of informal complaints was submitted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified under Regulation 32 (2) has been adequately addressed.