

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:	26/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork T23 X440.
Inspection undertaken by:	D Prendergast
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

Julie Bee's Preschool is a recently 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

The early years service is operated by the registered provider and an emergency contact person/volunteer is also available. The registered provider holds a major award 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 announced 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, volunteer 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 provider was in charge of operating the service.
 - (b) The duration of the announced inspection was facilitated by the registered provider.
- (2) Recruitment records in respect of the two adults attached to the service were reviewed and the following information was obtained:
- (a) Four written and validated references were required in total and all four had been obtained from past employers.
 - (b) None of the required references had been provided by sources other than previous employers.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for both staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (4) Evidence of attainment of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications, was available for the registered provider.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (d) The required police vetting was unavailable for 1 of the adults, who had resided outside the State for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The written response outlined that the relevant police vetting was applied for and once received, it was filed, to ensure compliance. As a preventive measure, the registered provider has implemented an annual vetting review system, to ensure that all staff vetting remains compliant with Tusla requirements. The service's staff onboarding process now also includes a question in relation to residing outside the State, for more than six consecutive months.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the required police vetting.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions have adequately addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 9.

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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (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

- (1) The staffing levels were adequate in meeting the needs of the children.
- (3) The adult child ratio was correct and maintained; there was 1 adult responsible for the direct care of 7 children, who were aged 2 ½ to 4 years. A volunteer was also available, however, they were not included in the adult child ratios.
- (8)
- (c) The named second adult, who was familiar with the operation of the service, was at the setting when the inspection commenced and assisted the registered provider in a voluntary capacity. This adult was available to attend the service and provide assistance, in the event of an emergency.

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:
- (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;

Compliance Information

- (1) Written information in relation to the following was clearly displayed in the care room:
- (b) The type of service offered and the age range of children accommodated.
- (c) The adult:child ratios at the setting.
- (d) Details in relation to the service’s programme of care.
- (e) The facilities provided.
- (f) The hours of operation and the service fees.

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:

- The mid-morning snack was observed shortly before 10.30am. The atmosphere during this mealtime was relaxed; the adults sat with and chatted to the children and provided them with appropriate assistance. Children were also given plenty of time to enjoy their food.
- Children had access to their own individual water bottles during the morning, should they need a drink at any stage.
- When using the sanitary facilities, the children were supported by the adults to do so in an independent manner. For example, verbal prompts and reminders were offered by the adults, as the children washed their hands.
- Opportunities for the children to rest and relax as required, were provided through the incorporation of a suitable cosy area in the care room.
- Adequate space was available for the children to move freely, as they played, explored and participated in daily tasks. Active play in the outdoor play space was also facilitated during the sessional service and suitable outdoor clothing was worn by the children.

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 inspector was advised that the children’s parents or guardians, who supplied the food for their daily snack breaks, had been provided with a copy of the service’s healthy eating policy.
- At the time of inspection, examples of the children’s snacks included wraps, crackers, fruit and yogurts, with water to drink.
- The registered provider confirmed that, should a child express hunger outside of the routine mealtimes, they would be facilitated to have a snack from their lunchbox. The service also had a supply of alternative snacks.
- It was reported that none of the children had any specific dietary requirements or allergies.

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:

- The risk of unauthorised entry to the service and the risk of a child exiting the premises unsupervised, were reduced through ensuring the security of the care room door, when it was not in use.
- An enclosure of high-level fencing was provided in the designated outdoor play area.
- Restrictive opening devices were in place on cupboards, that were used to store cleaning agents.
- The first aid box was wall mounted at adult height.
- There were no blind cords in the care room.
- Fire extinguishers were securely wall mounted.
- All of the examined play resources appeared to be in good working order and were free from pinch points.

Infection control:

- Effective handwashing was promoted through the provision of warm running water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels, at the wash hand basins. The children and adults were noted to wash their hands before the mid-morning snack.
- Perishable foods were refrigerated prior to consumption.
- The children's bags were suitably stored on individually labelled wall hooks, outside the main care room.
- Staff were observed to sanitise tables and to sweep the floor during the sessional service.

Administration of medication:

- Temperature reducing medication was safely stored out of the children's reach

Fire safety:

- Fire exits were free from obstruction.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider, who was available during the service's hours of operation, had recently completed FAR training and the corresponding certificate was on file.

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) A record of the monthly fire drills carried out at the service, was available on file. The most recently documented fire drill was dated 24 November 2025.

(b) Servicing records and information regarding the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm was accessible. It was noted that the firefighting equipment was serviced on 25 November 2025 and the wired smoke alarm was tested on 16 August 2025.

(4) The service's fire evacuation procedure was displayed in the care room.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

Compliance Information

- (c)
- Sufficient lighting was ensured. Natural light was available through large windows in the care room and windows were also provided in the sanitary facilities. In both areas, this was supplemented with artificial, fluorescent lights, with protective covers.
 - Oil fired radiators and an electric radiator were in place in the care room. The recorded air temperatures in the care room and the sanitary facilities fell within the required range of 18°C to 22°C.
 - Openable windows in both the care room and sanitary facilities allowed for a supply of natural ventilation.