

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL129
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Name of Service:	Juniors Playschool and Montessori
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Address of Service:	15 Bramblefield View, Littlepace, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D15 X280
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rachel Quann
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	02/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	Not applicable
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Business Park, Ballycoolin, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Y Kelly
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).

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Description of service

Juniors Playschool and Montessori, established in 2002, is a full day care, part-time, sessional and school age childcare service located in Mulhuddart, Dublin 15. The service cares for children aged between 1 - 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 8am-6pm and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service also caters for school age children. The premises is a two-storey semi-detached house. There are three care rooms, a sleep room, an art and craft storage room and a kitchen. The sleep room and two care rooms are situated on the ground floor – Wobbler room (downstairs back) and Toddler room (downstairs front) and one large care room - the Montessori room and an art and craft storage room are situated upstairs. There is an outdoor play area available to the children to the rear of the house.

Staffing

There were five staff members present on the day of inspection, including the registered provider.

Methodology

Tusla 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 the regulations 9, 11, 19, 21, 23, 25 and 28, however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under regulation 20. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Wobbler Room, Toddler Room and Montessori/Afterschool Room.

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, 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*

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(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) There was a designated person in charge of the service and there was a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The service manager was present and in charge of the service when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service at 09:15am. The registered provider arrived shortly afterwards and remained for the duration of the inspection.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection records and in discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that 3 new staff members had commenced employment in the service since the last inspection which was carried out on the 15 August 2024. The full staff files for 3 adults were reviewed to include 3 staff members who work directly with the children, 1 of whom is employed to work with the school aged children. Garda vetting for 5 adults was reviewed.

The following was recorded:

(a) Five written validated references were available from past employers.

(b) One written validated reference was available from a reputable source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 5 adults whose files were reviewed. Garda vetting disclosures demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring the service to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that 3 staff members whose files were reviewed and who may work directly with the children in the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) International police vetting for 3 staff members who had lived outside of the Irish state as an adult for more than 6 consecutive months was available, however, it was not available in English or Irish. It is a requirement that documents are available in English/Irish and are translated by a certified translator.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(2)(d) International police vetting for 2 staff members was submitted with both documents translated by a certified translator. A third staff member requiring translated international police vetting has since left the service.

Preventive Action

(2)(d) The Registered Provider will have international police vetting translated before staff members start in the service and will place in the staff file.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Evidence of translated international police vetting for 2 staff members.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance under Regulation 9 has been addressed.

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) On the day of the inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspector arrived unannounced at the service and remained so throughout the inspection.

The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:

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- In the Wobbler Room there were 4 children aged 1 year 1 month to 1 year 7 months being cared for by 1 staff member.
- In the Toddler Room, there were 3 children aged 2 years 6 months to 4 years 1 month being cared for by 1 staff member.
- In the Montessori/Afterschool Room there was 1 pre-school child aged 3 years 6 months being cared for by 1 staff member. In addition to this there were 2 school aged children attending.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present in the service at all times.

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) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic needs:

- Children's fruit snack, morning snack and dinners were brought from home. Lunch consisted of sandwiches, yoghurts, crackers, cheese, cucumber, ham and fruit. The children had drinking water available in their own water bottles.
- The sanitary accommodation, located in the downstairs hallway and just beside the Montessori/Afterschool room, provided children with access to use the toilet.
- Nappy changing occurred at scheduled times and more frequently as required throughout the day. Staff members engaged positively with the children during this time using it as an opportunity for one-to-one interactions with the children.
- There was a cot room with two cots available for children under two years that required sleep in the service. There were stackable beds available for children aged over two years who require sleep.
- The children attending all of the care rooms enjoyed time in the outdoor area on the day of inspection.
- During transition to sleep, staff were available to assist the children in getting ready and helping them to settle whilst going to sleep. To support the transition to sleep time, one practitioner read a story to the

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children which helped to provide a calm and relaxing atmosphere whilst another practitioner prepared the room for sleep time.

Supporting relationships and interactions around children:

- Staff demonstrated warm and caring interactions with the children. Children were comforted when upset and the staff seemed familiar with the children's individual needs, likes and preferences. Children received help from staff when needed and children were provided with support and comfort as needed throughout the morning.
- Staff were observed interacting with the children and engaging in children's play at tabletop activities such as making butterfly paintings, at floor play with the children and during outdoor play.
- Identity and belonging were promoted in the service. For example, there were 'Family Tree' displays with photographs of children's families. Children's artwork was displayed throughout 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-

(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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b) Adequate and suitable sleep facilities were not provided in the service for children under 24 months as demonstrated by the following:

The beds that were available for the children under 24 months were inadequate as they did not meet the requirements of the Tusla 'Guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months.' The guidance document outlines the type of floor bed and mattress required for children who have sleep plans in place to sleep on floor beds. The beds provided were stackable beds.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(1)(b) The Registered Provider has ordered cocoon beds for children under 24 months.

Preventive Action

(1)(b) The Registered Provider has stated that all children under 24 months will be only put to sleep on floor beds if required rather than stackable beds in compliance with the services' policy.

Supporting documentation submitted

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- Receipt for order of cocoon beds.
- Sleep policy.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance under Regulation 20 has been addressed.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- There was age-appropriate furniture with child sized chairs and tables for children to sit whilst they played or for mealtimes.
- Toys and equipment were visible and accessible to children on low level shelving which facilitated children's independence in play. The rooms were divided into different areas of interest which provided opportunities for a variety of spontaneous play experiences and choice for children. In the Wobbler room there were age-appropriate materials such as cause-and-effect toys, stacking and matching toys, soft animals, shape sorters, jigsaws and wooden blocks.
- There were home corners and role play areas with wooden kitchen, kitchen resources including pots and pans, and dress up area, small world items such as dolls houses with furniture and dolls, animals, dinosaurs and transportation toys such as cars to support imaginative and interactive play. Construction materials included plastic building bricks and construction straws. There were art and craft materials to support creative art and mark making for children. There was a wide range of Montessori materials and tabletop materials in the Montessori/Afterschool room. These included shelves with Montessori materials such as wooden cylinders, broad stairs and spindle boxes for early numeracy development, practical life resources such as dressing frames and matching and sorting activities such as jigsaws, threading beads and pegboard activities to support fine motor development. Sensory play was supported including water play at the water tray with animals and dinosaurs. There was a selection of books which supported storytelling opportunities and children's language development.
- An outdoor play area was available for children. The equipment and materials included a playhouse with a slide, climbing frame, 3 small plastic slides, 2 small plastic see-saws, ride in cars, scooters, and footballs

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which promoted safe risky play, gross motor and fundamental movement skills. There was a playhouse, wooden kitchen with kitchen resources and dolls, small world resources and transportation toys for dramatic play and plastic buildings bricks for construction play. There was a sandpit for sensory play. There were 2 covered areas which enabled children to be outdoors regardless of weather conditions.

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 door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The outdoor play area was fully enclosed and was mainly surfaced with an impact absorbing surface.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled running warm water, liquid soap and dispensed paper towels were provided in the sanitary accommodation of the service.
- Windows were open in the care room to allow fresh air to circulate.

Administration of Medication:

- No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- The inspector observed that 10-minute sleep check observations were being performed and documented on sleeping children, noting each child's colour, position and breathing pattern at the time of each check.
- The ambient temperature in the rooms where children were sleeping was 20.9°C at 12.05pm in the cot room and 20.7°C at 12.10pm in the Wobbler room.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were unobstructed in the event of an emergency evacuation.

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Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. In the Wobbler room infection control measures were not always followed. The possible risk of the spread of infection was increased due to the following:
 - The children were not assisted to wash their hands after nappy changing and before snack time.
 - Handwashing was not always carried out by staff in between nappy changing of children.
 - The same gloves and apron were worn by staff for nappy changing of 2 children.
 - The nappy changing mat was not sprayed and cleaned with disinfectant after nappy changing of 3 children.
 - One child's snack which consisted of strawberries and kiwi fruit was placed directly on the tray of the highchair.
2. Inadequate space, which was found to be less than the recommended distance of 50 cm apart, was left between beds of sleeping children set up in the Wobbler room. The inadequate space between the beds increased the risk of cross infection.

Safe Sleep:

3. Sleep plans including risk assessments were not available for 2 children under 24 months who were not sleeping in a cot but on a stackable bed that is only appropriate for children over 24 months. This is at variance to the 'Guidance for the early learning and care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months', which states that a sleep plan must be agreed and signed by a parent/guardian and the registered provider/person in charge to demonstrate that the child is developmentally ready to sleep on an appropriate floor bed.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

Infection Control:

1. Children are assisted with hand washing at all appropriate times. Staff members were retrained on infection control policy, hand washing policy and nappy changing procedure. During snack time staff members are reminded about infection control measures, snack remains in the tub provided or is served on a plate provided by the service.
2. The registered provider has put down floor beds for the children and measured more than 50cm between floor beds.

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Safe Sleep:

3. The Registered Provider submitted 2 new sleep plans completed by each parent with relevant information and risk assessment form filled out with appropriate information for 2 children under 24 months sleeping on floor beds.

Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The manager has retrained all staff on the beds that are required by each age group and in infection control measures.
2. Training requirements in relation to infection control measures have been considered for staff members in all rooms.

Safe Sleep:

3. The manager has retrained all staff on the beds that are required by each age group.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Completed risk assessment form.
- Photograph of floor beds with 50cm distance.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance under Regulation 23 has been addressed.

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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.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and a staff member trained in FAR was available on the premises throughout the opening hours of the service. There was 1 staff member trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and who was present on the day of the inspection.

(2)(a) Two adequately stocked first aid boxes were observed in the Toddler room and the Montessori Room of the service.

(b) First aid boxes were stored out of the reach of the children but available to staff as needed.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Evidence of insurance cover was available to demonstrate there was cover for a maximum of 30 children for full day care with an expiry date of 27 March 2027.