

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024FL001
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Name of Service:	Just Like Home Childcare
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Address of Service:	7 Park Avenue, Millers Glen, Swords, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K67 P6N2
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Name of Registered Provider:	Natalia Baczek
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	30	PM	28
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	N McEndoo and E Saini
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Just Like Home Childcare is one of two early years services owned and operated by the registered provider, both located in north Co Dublin. Just Like Home Childcare accommodates pre-school children from 1 – 6 years of age on a sessional, part-time and full day care basis, operating from 7.15am to 6.00pm daily for 51 weeks a year, closing for 1 week at Christmas. Eligible children are facilitated to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme during term time.

Staffing

A manager and assistant manager are employed to oversee the operation of the early years' service on a daily basis. A further eight staff members are employed in the service, all of whom work directly with the children. A cleaner is also employed outside of operational hours. There was one student present on a student placement on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work directly 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 of premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19, and 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN1081	23/06/2026	On review of the staff files, it was noted that vetting procedures were not always carried out in full prior to staff members having access to or contact with children.
Status	The registered provider submitted corrective and preventative actions which were accepted and addressed the statutory Notice.	

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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,
 - (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
 - (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.
- (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.
- (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.

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Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider ensured that.

- (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.

(2)

On the day of inspection, ten adults were present, the assistant manager, seven adults who were employed to work directly with the children, one adult in a supernumerary role and one adult who was a student on placement.

The following vetting information was available for 11 adults:

- (a) Twenty written validated references from past employers for 10 of the adults.
- (b) Two written validated references from reputable sources for one of the adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting from the police authorities in another state was available for 10 adults who had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or more.

(4)

Eleven of the adult files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

Non-Compliance Information

- (3) See statutory notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN1081 served.

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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)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(2)

The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were 30 children present in the service being supervised by 7 adults during the inspection.

(8) (a)

The registered provider ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises when children were present in the service.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1)

A sample of twelve children's files reviewed demonstrated that records were maintained appropriately, including:

- (a) Name and date of birth of the child.
- (b) Date the child first attended the service.
- (c) Date of which child ceased to attend the service.
- (d) Parent or guardian contact information.
- (e) Authorisation for collection.
- (h) Immunisation information where available.

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- (3) On the day of inspection, a record in writing in respect of each pre-school child was available and open to inspection on the premises by-
- (c) an authorised person.

Non-Compliance Information

From the sample of 12 records reviewed, the following information was not available,

- (f) Details of relevant medical and allergy information was omitted from one file
- (g) Details of registered medical practitioner details was omitted from two files
- (i) Details of written parental consent for emergency medical treatment was omitted from one file

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has confirmed that all children's files have been checked and updated. To prevent reoccurrence all files will be checked when children transition to the next room or if there has been a change in circumstances, by parents and educators.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of updated forms submitted.

Evidence of reminder notice to staff.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been accepted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 15 have 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

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Compliance Information

Basic needs:

- The service promoted healthy eating. Food and snacks were provided at regular intervals during the day. The main meal of the day consisted of Chicken Curry with Rice, with an alternative option of plain rice. Extra portions of food were offered and observed to be given to the children when requested.
- Children's drinks were available on a low-level table in each room, within their reach throughout the session, should they feel thirsty during the day. Drinks were also available to the children when outdoors.
- The weather on the day of inspection was very warm, sun cream was applied as required and the staff ensured that the children wore sun hats when available and limited the period of time that the children were exposed to the sun during outdoor play.
- Children were observed to change from wet clothing within a sufficient timeframe following water play. Each child was afforded dignity and privacy during this time, with support from staff when needed.
- The individual sleep needs of younger children were met. Due to high weather temperatures on the day of inspection, the service had elevated sleep-room temperatures, which exceeded the recommended range of 18 to 22°C for sleep. The staff onsite implemented control measures to safeguard Children's Health and welfare. Parents were informed of the situation and in partnership with family's, alternative sleep arrangements were agreed on for the affected children. Additional cooling measures observed for the remainder of the service included the use of fans, drawing of blackout blinds and water play which helped to improve the children's comfort. The service confirmed on the day that longer-term solutions were in the process of being implemented.
- The staff working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours and supported children when they experienced challenges in behaviour.

Non-Compliance Information

On the day of inspection children's learning, development and well-being was not fully supported. It was observed that the children in the Toddler Room were seated at the table with books for approximately one hour while awaiting dinner and nappy changes took place. Children were discouraged from leaving the table to access other play areas or resources within the room. As a result, opportunities for active play and child-led choices within the learning environment were limited for an extended period.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has confirmed that the service has adjusted the routine for the toddler room. Children can take part in a group activity like stories or puzzles. Staff have been reminded that we are a child lead setting and children must not be restricted in exploring.

Supporting documentation submitted

None

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been accepted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 19 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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 service had a secure entrance to the service with a buzzer system in place. This prevented any unauthorised access to the service and exit from the service by children.
- The outdoor area was secured with tall wooden fencing and a bolted gate.
- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°C.
- Cleaning products and equipment were stored out of the reach of children.
- Materials were observed to be in a good state of repair.

Infection Control:

- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes.
- Soap was readily available to children to wash their hands prior to eating, after both toileting and nappy changes. Child friendly handwashing posters were placed beside the sinks. Handwashing was supervised by the adults to ensure all hands were cleaned effectively.
- Sanitary facilities were observed to be kept maintained and clean.

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- The sanitary facilities were observed to be ventilated by openable windows.
- Aprons and gloves were available and observed in use by staff when changing of a child was required.

Safe Sleep:

- The service had a designated sleep room with appropriate cots available to children.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were observed to be unobstructed throughout the service.
- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed on the walls of the service.
- Fire extinguishers were on the premises and easily accessible.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Windrow restrictors were present on all upstairs windows, however three windows in the upstairs care room, sanitary facilities, and hallway area were observed to be presenting a risk as they were fully opened on the day of inspection. The windows were brought back to the restriction point when requested by the inspector.
2. Grapes were observed to be whole in one lunch box in the upstairs care room. When brought to attention of the staff the grapes were removed and cut in half for the child. Whole grapes are choking hazard to a child.
3. No evidence of recording or monitoring of room temperatures was available for either of the care rooms, or the sleep room within the service on the day of inspection. Recording and documenting room temperatures helps ensure that infants and children are being cared for within the required limits.

Infection Control:

4. Bins present in the service were not pedal operated and required removal of the lid by hand for each time waste was disposed of. This increased the risk of cross infection.
5. Gloves were observed not to be routinely used when food was being served to the children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The registered provider has confirmed the following:

General Safety:

1. All upstairs windows were checked to ensure that the window restrictors were correctly positioned and functioning as required. Staff have been reminded that all upstairs windows must remain restricted at all times.

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2. Parents have been reminded that all fruit must be cut. Lunch boxes will be checked by staff, and fruit cut up where necessary.

3. Temperature records are now in place in each room to ensure rooms are kept at the correct temperature.

Infection Control:

4. Bins in the service were replaced with pedal-operated bins. Staff have been reminded to maintain appropriate infection prevention and control measures when disposing of waste. The bins will be checked as part of the daily checks.

5. Staff have been reminded to ensure that gloves are to be worn when handling food. A full stock of gloves is now in each room.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Evidence of signage on windows.
2. Evidence of communication with parents.
3. Template of Temperature Record.

Infection Control:

4. Evidence of new bins submitted.
5. None.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been accepted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on the next inspection.