

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY112
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Name of Service:	Jack & Jill Montessori School
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Address of Service:	61 Seacrest, Knocknacarra, Salthill, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 TN59
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rosaleen Carr
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	04/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park Hospital, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Friel
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

Jack and Jill Montessori School is a private sessional service in operation since 2003, accommodating children aged from 3 to 6 years of age. Business hours are from 09:00 to 12:30 and the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme runs within these hours, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year.

The service is located in a residential area of Knocknacarra in Galway City. It operates from two ground floor care rooms in the registered providers home namely; Junior room located at the front of the premises and the Senior room located at the rear. Sanitary facilities are available in both care rooms and there is a secure outdoor play area located at the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There are six adults employed in the service including two adults providing Access and Inclusion support, an administrator and the registered provider.

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 the child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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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.*

(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 the person in charge. A named person was available as required.
- (b) The staff roster indicated that both the person in charge and named person were on the premises while the pre-school children were present.
- (2) Recruitment files of all six adults were reviewed:
- (a) Seven of the 12 required validated references were from past employers.
- (b) The remaining 5 of 12 validated reference were from sources other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the six adults demonstrating compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Overseas police vetting was available for one adult, for whom it was required, who had lived outside the State as an adult for more than six consecutive months.
- (4) Staff files viewed on the day indicated that four of the five adults working directly with the children had obtained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, ranging from at least Level 6, on the National Framework of Qualifications and the fifth adult had a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

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.*

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Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children in the morning session.
- (3) The adult/child ratios were met. There were 4 adults working directly with 19 children in the sessional service.

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

Basic Needs:

- At 10:45 children in the Senior care room were observed being given their snacks by the designated helper. The food was noted to be in line with the service's healthy eating policy, examples of which included a variety of berried fruits, filled sandwiches, yogurt, pretzels and rice cakes.
- Water was available from individual water bottles with each child's name visible.
- Children were observed putting on their coats independently for outdoor play. Adults were nearby to assist when required.
- Rest/quiet areas were in use in both care rooms and children were observed throughout the morning reading while sitting on the wooden and vinyl sofas. A variety of books were available nearby.
- The sanitary areas were located off the care room. Children were noted to access these areas independently; adults were nearby to provide reminders to wash and dry their hands after toileting. The inspector observed children being escorted from the outdoor play area into the sanitary areas while they were playing outdoors.
- The adults in the care room were observed to be sensitive and responsive to the children's needs. An adult in the Senior care room was observed role modelling putting coloured cubes into a box while a child followed their example at tidy up time. The child was given time to complete the activity. The adult was heard giving lots of praise and encouragement to complete the task.

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Physical and material environment:

- A range of play based materials and Montessori equipment in the Senior care room provided opportunities for exploration and stimulated the imagination, enhancing the learning outcomes for children across all developmental areas.
- Toys and play equipment, which were easily accessible from storage boxes, were displayed and labelled with pictures and words in the Senior care room.
- Tables and chairs were positioned to facilitate group and solitary activities with a wide variety of resources stationed nearby in each of the care rooms.
- The outdoor play area provided a covered area where the children could play outdoors in all weather. A range of developmentally appropriate equipment was provided in the fully enclosed area where opportunities were provided for challenge and safe risk. The equipment included ride-ons, twister carts and rockers providing opportunities to practice gross motor skills of pedalling, balancing and co-ordination.

Supporting children's relationships:

- During meals and tabletop activities adults sitting with children were observed listening and engaging in social conversation which helped to promote a relaxed and happy atmosphere. Staff were heard using a range of strategies including modelling and demonstrating, explaining, open questioning and engaging the children in shared thinking and problem solving.
- Staff stated a range of communication methods were in use to communicate with parents/guardians. These include chatting to the parents/guardians at drop off and collection- as observed on the day by the inspector and individual messaging applications.
- Children were supported to engage positively with one another when turn taking and sharing. Examples included a staff member intervening and role modelling to the children to ensure that all children were given the opportunity to share the outdoor equipment.

Programme of activities:

- Observations linked to both national curriculum and quality frameworks were available. In addition, developmental checks were carried out and documented which helped create a holistic picture of each

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individual child. The adults in the care rooms stated that the emergent interests of the children informed the planning of the curriculum.

- Children's language and development were supported through one to one, group discussions, songs and storytelling which were observed during the inspection. An example included an adult in the Junior care room discussing with each child what they were going to bring in for show and tell on Friday.

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 main entrance door was secured on arrival and was answered by the registered provider ensuring unauthorised adults could not enter the service or that children could not leave the service unsupervised.
- Windows in both care rooms were fitted with restrictors ensuring the children could not exit or fall from them.
- Cleaning agents were located on high shelving in the care rooms, out of reach of the children.
- Waste was stored in bins which were inaccessible in both the indoor and outdoor areas.
- The perimeter of the outdoor area was secured with a high block wall and two secure wooden gates ensuring the children could not leave the area.
- The oil tank was secured with high wooden fencing ensuring the children could not gain access to the area.

Infection Control:

- Hand basins in use in the sanitary areas, by the adults and children, were fitted with thermostatically controlled hot water, between 25°C and 28.9°C, dispensing soap and dispensing paper towels. Pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of paper waste.
- Handwashing was observed after toileting, eating of food and coming in from outdoor play preventing the spread of germs.
- Perishable food was stored in the fridge in the kitchen ensuring that it did not spoil.
- Cleaning schedules were observed to be completed and up to date ensuring the service was kept clean and hygienic.

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- Children's bags were stored on shelving away from the floor area.

Administration of Medication:

- The inspector did not observe any medication being administered while on inspection.
- Temperature reducing medication was available and was stored in a cupboard in the kitchen out of reach of the children. The expiry was documented as 10/28.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were fitted with thumb twist cylinders aiding the safe evacuation of adults and children in the event of an emergency.
- Fire extinguishers were fitted with brackets to the walls of the service.
- The fire assembly point was visible at the rear of the service providing a safe area for the children and adults to stand in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- An adult sized doll's house was not secured or anchored posing a safety risk should it fall or tip on top of a child.
- A cord from a speaker, hanging down from a wall into a four-way extension lead, was accessible to children in the rest/quiet area of the Senior care room posing a safety risk to children sitting in the area.

Infection Control:

- Two vinyl sofas in the Junior care room rest/quiet area had loose stitching and the foam was exposed making effective cleaning difficult.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The following statements were received from the registered provider:

General Safety:

- The adult sized doll's house has been secured to ensure the safety of the children in the Senior care room.
Management will ensure on a daily basis that all heavy equipment is secured.
- A cord from a speaker, hanging down from a wall into a four-way extension lead in the Senior care room rest area has been removed. Management will conduct a daily risk assessment in order to action any potential safety issues.

Infection Control:

- The two sofas in the Junior care room have been removed and soft furnishings will be reviewed on a daily basis

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and any issues arising will be addressed.

Supporting documentation submitted

The following photographs were received in the office of the inspectorate:

General Safety:

1. A photograph showing the brackets attaching the doll's house to the wall.
2. A photograph showing that the cord from a speaker, hanging down from a wall into a four-way extension lead has been removed from the Senior care room.

Infection Control:

3. The statement from the registered provider has been accepted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 on inspection.

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) A First Aid Responder (FAR) certificate was available to evidence that one adult had FAR training completed with an expiry date documented as 23 January 2027.
- (2) (a)(b) The suitably equipped first aid box, stored within easy access of the adults, was available at all times in the Junior care room.

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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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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) Written records were available of the monthly fire drills that took place in the service. The record of the most recent fire drill was dated 29 May 2026, with previous dates documented as 21 April 2026 and 20 March 2026.
 - (b) Written records were available detailing the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment in the service along with the smoke alarms. The firefighting equipment and smoke alarm records were both dated 25 May 2026.
- (2)
- (c) Both the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm records were open to review on the premises on the day of inspection.
- (4) The notice of the fire drill procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were located on the walls of the care rooms beside the fire exit doors.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A written policy was available to evidence that the service was insured for 25 pre-school children on a sessional basis. Details included public liability and fire and theft, with the expiry date recorded as 27 November 2026.