

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DY019

Name of Service: Barnardos-Finglas Early Intervention Service

Address of Service: St. Oliver Plunket's Junior School, St Helena's Drive, Finglas, Dublin 11.

Eircode: D11 XA46

Name of Registered Provider: Martin Hannigan

Service type: Full Day

Date of Inspection: 08/10/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
2nd Floor, Unit 4/5
The Nexus Building
Blanchardstown Corporate Park
Ballycoolin
Dublin 15 | D15 CF9K

Inspection undertaken by: C Kerrigan

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 Not applicable.

Description of service

Barnardo's Finglas Early Years Intervention Service is a non-profit preschool service based within St Oliver Plunket's Junior School in Dublin 11.

The service is registered to operate from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:40am-1:50pm. The registered provider reports that the service currently operates Monday to Thursday; with a stay and play option offered to families on a Friday in place of the registered service provision.

The service has use of a large care room, an office, a room for circle time and other small group activities can be held.

The service has sole use of a large fully secured outdoor area which is located to the rear of the premises. A large gym hall is also open for use of the service located within the school.

Staffing

The registered provider employs eleven adults to work within the service, this includes a service manager, a deputy person in charge, five early years workers, one administration staff, all of whom were present on the day of inspection, a chef, a bus driver and a cleaner.

The registered provider works in an oversight capacity and 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, safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 Record of a pre-school child and Regulation 16 (j)(k) Record in relation to pre-school service.

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 service manager, the 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
- (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 ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The registered provider ensured that the person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.
- (2) The files of eleven adults working within the service and the registered provider were reviewed in full on the day of inspection.
- (a) The registered provider ensured that fifteen written and validated references were available from a previous employer for the adults working within the service.

- (b) The registered provider ensured that seven written and validated references were available from a person other than a previous employer for the adults working within the service.
 - (c) The registered provider ensured that Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the eleven adults working directly with the children. The service also demonstrated adherence to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) The registered provider ensured that police vetting was available for one adult who had resided in a state other than the state of Ireland for a period longer than six consecutive months.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that all references and Garda vetting procedures were completed prior to the eleven adults being allowed access or contact with the children attending the preschool service.
- (4) A review of all seven staff qualification indicated that all seven adults who work directly with children held a major award at Level 5 or higher in early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualification Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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) The registered provider ensured an adequate number of adults were working with the children in the service at all times throughout the day. Seven early years staff were available in the building to meet the care needs of thirteen children who were present on the day of inspection.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the adult to child ratios were maintained within the service on the day of inspection. this was further evidenced in the staff roster.

(8) (a) A review of the staff roster and conversation with adults present on the day indicated that the registered provider ensured that there were two adults present during the operational hours of the service.

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-

(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1)
The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept for each child attending the pre-school service. The written records of ten children were reviewed, and all were found to be fully completed; they contained the following information.

(a) The registered provider ensured that the name and date of birth was completed in each child's record.

(b) The registered provider ensured that the date on which a child first attended the service was recorded.

(d) The registered provider ensured that the name, address and telephone number of the parent or guardian along with an emergency contact person who could also be contacted was recorded in the child's file.

- (e) The registered provider ensured that an authorised person for the collection of each child was recorded.
 - (f) The registered provider ensured the details of any illness, disability, allergy or special needs of the child relevant to their care within the service was recorded.
 - (g) The registered provider ensured that the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner was recorded.
 - (h) The registered provider ensured that the record of vaccines was available for inspection on the premises by the Inspector.
 - (i) The registered provider ensured that written consent was present for children needing appropriate medical treatment in the event of an emergency.
- (3)
- (c) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was available for inspection and on the premises by the Inspector.

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:

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (j) There were no new medication records available for review since the last inspection in January 2023, however the registered provider ensured that a medication record was available for use and staff were able to outline safe medication administration procedures.
 - (k) A sample of ten accident and incident forms were reviewed; these were found to be fully completed with all necessary information included.

(3) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was available for the inspection on the premises by the Inspector.

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 registered provider ensured that the children's learning, development and wellbeing was facilitated within the service in the following ways.

Basic Needs

- Water was observed to be freely available to children throughout their time within the service.
- During the children's time in the service, children were provided with a breakfast of cereals, toast or pancakes, a snack of banana, oranges, blueberries and apples appropriately cut, which was served on platters in the garden and a hot lunch of pasta and sauce, all which was freshly prepared onsite.
- Children were provided with appropriate clothing during outdoor play, staff ensured that children were provided with suitable clothing and protection from the inclement weather, ensuring a child's comfort and warmth.
- Nappy and Toileting were undertaken as scheduled and as needed. Staff were observed to pick up on a child's cue for toileting by observing body language and demonstrated an understanding of where each child was in their toileting journey. The children were observed to have unrestricted access to the toilet. Children in nappies were observed to be changed promptly and in a dignified manner.
- The adults in the service were observed to use a range of positive behaviour strategies to manage challenging behaviours, these were in line with the service policy on behaviour management. The following was observed:
 - Whilst in the Outdoor area a child was observed to become increasingly dysregulated, adults quickly intervened using a range of tools from distraction, to naming of emotions to providing physical comfort and limit setting. The adults undertook these strategies in a child centred developmentally appropriate way.
- There was a rest area available in the care room if the children needed to engage in more restful activities.

Supporting Relationships

- The adults in the service were observed to interact with the children in a warm, attentive and affectionate manner, sitting with the children involving themselves in the children's play experiences. This provides opportunities to support children's learning and emotional development.
- The adults in the service spoke to each other in a professional and respectful tones and manner, teamwork was frequently demonstrated throughout the inspection.
- The adults in the service reported that there is a strong emphasis on family engagement with information such as toileting, activities and food given to parents daily with drop-off and collection times used as opportunities for information sharing. This is strengthened further through regular family meetings and a key worker system in use within the service, providing an opportunity for adults and children to form attachments and a point of contact for families.

Physical Material and Environment

- The furniture observed in the room sampled were of low level and appropriate for the children attending with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children on low level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- The children had access to the Outdoor play environment throughout the day. This was available on a scheduled basis and as needed for those who required it. In the outdoor area there were areas of sloping grass, gravel and paving, with flatter sensory areas with mulch and sand which provided an environment for spatial and sensory development. There was a selection of push pull toys, sensory plant areas, swings, climbing frames, tree houses, rope bridges and picnic benches giving an array of choices for gross motor and sensory play.

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 to the service was secured upon the Inspectors unannounced arrival at the service. Access was granted via a doorbell system in which a staff member answered, therefore preventing access to the children from unauthorised persons. This also prevent the children from leaving the service unsupervised.
- The care room doors remained closed with a lock system in use, therefore preventing children from exiting the service into the adjoining corridors unsupervised.
- The ambient room temperatures within the service were kept between the recommended 18 and 22°C.
- There were no trailing flexes accessible to children within the service.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children on the day of inspection.
- Hazardous materials such as cleaning agents were placed on high shelving away from children's reach.
- The outdoor area was fully secured, enclosed by fencing, walls and a locked gate.

Infection Control:

- The service was clean and well maintained throughout. Cleaning schedules were on display throughout the service outlining the frequency of cleaning.
- Thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were in use throughout the service for hand washing purposes, ensuring good hand washing practises.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication is not routinely given to children within the service however staff demonstrated knowledge on the procedure for medication administration if required.
- Temperature reducing medication was safely stored within the service and available for use if required.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were free clear and free from obstruction.

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) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept in writing of fire drills within the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated the 7 October 2025.
 - (b) A record was available indicating the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment with records demonstrating it was last serviced in October 2025, and the number type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms throughout the service, these were last serviced on 26 February 2025.
- (2)
- (c) The registered provider ensured that the fire drill and maintenance records were available for review by the Inspector.
- (4) A notice of procedures was displayed throughout the service indicating the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.