

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY020
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Name of Service:	Baron's Playschool
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Address of Service:	82a Northway Estate, Finglas, Dublin 11, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Benoni Robu
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	03/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	36	PM	25
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 2 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Finnegan Hayes
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.
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Description of service

Baron's Playschool is a privately operated service providing full day, part time and sessional care to children aged 0 to 6 years old. The service operates from a two-storey purposely adapted residential unit in a residential area in North Dublin from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday. The service consists of four care rooms, an office, kitchen, and sanitary facilities. Room 3 & 4 are located on the ground floor while Room's 1 & 2 are located on the first floor. An enclosed outdoor area is available to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 6 staff to work in the service including the person in charge. The registered provider does not work directly with the children in the service but does provide cover when needed.

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 an examination of compliance under Regulation 9; (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4), Regulation 11; (1)(4), Regulation 15; (1), Regulation 19; (1)(a), Regulation 23, Regulation 24; (1)(3) (a)(b)(4). These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under

Regulation 15- Record in relation to the preschool child

Regulation 19- Health, Welfare and Development of Child

Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,
Regulation 24- Checking in and out and record of attendance,
The scope of the inspection included Room 3 and Room 4.

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment was assessed in relation to all staff currently employed and
Regulation 11- Staffing Levels was assessed across all of the rooms.

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 person in charge, 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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise when required.

(b) A review of the roster showed that the designated person or a named deputy is present on the premises at all times during the opening hours.

(2) A review of the roster and discussion with management and staff established that there were 7 staff currently employed in the service including the registered provider who works in the service as needed. The files of all staff were reviewed.

(a) Six written and verified references were available from a past employer in relation to 4 staff members.

(b) Eight written and verified references were available from a source other than a past employer in relation to 5 staff members.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in relation to all 7 staff members.

(d) Police vetting was available in relation to 3 staff members who had lived outside of Ireland for a period of more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Evidence was available to show that 7 staff members who worked directly with the children held 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police vetting was not available in relation to one staff member who had lived in two countries outside of Ireland each for a period of more than 6 months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d) The staff member is currently pursuing Police vetting from the countries previously lived in. Management will check regularly to keep up to date on police vetting.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation in relation to above has been reviewed by the Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

Regulation 9(2)(d) remains outstanding. Regulation 9 will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

Compliance Information

(1) There were 36 preschool children being cared for by 6 adults on the morning of inspection. The person in charge was available to assist in the care rooms as required.

(4) The registered provider ensured that ratios were maintained during the inspection. The following was observed:

- Room 1; 8 children aged 3-4 years were being cared for by 1 staff member.
- Room 2; 10 children aged 3-4 years were being cared for by 1 staff member.
- Room 3; 10 children aged 3-4 years were being cared for by 1 staff member.
- Room 4; 8 children aged 2-3 years were being cared for by 2 staff members.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 12 records in relation to the preschool children were reviewed. The details required were present on all records. A space was available on the form to record the details of the date the child ceased attending the service required under (c).

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 service provided regular meals and snacks to the children attending. The daily menu provided by the service included a variety of cereals for breakfast, dinner at 1pm followed by another snack at 3:30pm. A morning snack served at 11am was provided by the parents.
- The service has a healthy eating policy which is followed by the parents, the snacks observed on the day of inspection included sandwiches, fruit, and yoghurts.
- Drinks were available to the children throughout the morning in each room and drinks were provided to the children with their meals.
- Nappy changing was done on a set schedule and as required to ensure the children's comfort. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently with staff available to assist if needed.
- Children were free to move around the indoor and outdoor spaces and engage in a variety of play experiences for example the children in Room 3 were observed to engage in a variety of activities of their choosing; 3 children were observed at a table playing with sensory trays containing sand, 3 were doing dressing up while 2 played with in the home corner.

Supporting relationships:

- A calm relaxed atmosphere was evident on entering the service. Staff supported this through kind, caring, respectful interactions with the children.
- Mealtimes were observed to be a relaxed social event where staff sat and chatted with the children. Children were encouraged to feed themselves, with staff available to help when required.
- Evidence of short- and long-term planning was available in the care rooms. This was further supplemented by interest-based planning which incorporated the children's interests into the activities of the service.

- Challenging behaviour was managed in a child centred way. Children were supported to manage frustration and disagreements with the support of staff for example a child in Room 3 was supported to find a piece of equipment that suited their needs without taking items from other children.
- Information was shared with parents on a daily basis. Staff record details about each child including meals and nappy changes which is shared with the parents when collecting their child promoting parental engagement and a strong staff/parent relationship.

Physical and Material Environment

- The care rooms had clearly defined interest areas and were well stocked with toys and materials to allow children to engage in a range of play experiences.
- Cosy areas were present in all rooms offering a quiet comfortable area for children to rest and relax during the day.
- Child sized table and chairs and low-level shelving allowed children to access materials freely and promoted independence.
- Individually labelled boxes were used to store the children's belongings. This ensured items are kept together and safe and supported children to identify their own belongings.
- The outdoor area had clearly defined interest areas with toys and supporting materials neatly displayed and easily accessible to the children. The garden offered opportunities for a range of play experiences including imaginative play and ample opportunities for gross motor activity.

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 entrance door was secured on arrival to the service. A video bell was present which allowed staff to see visitors before allowing access.
- Safety gates were used where required to prevent children leaving rooms unsupervised and accessing unsafe areas.
- Toys and equipment in the care rooms were maintained in good condition and free from hazards.
- TV's which were present in care rooms were mounted securely out of reach of the children.
- The stairs were fitted with a suitable handrail and nonslip flooring which was maintained in good condition.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children in the service.
- Windows were fitted with restrictor devices to prevent injury from falls.
- The outdoor area was secured with a high fence and bolts were present on gates to prevent access or children leaving unsupervised.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic manner.
- Cleaning schedules were displayed throughout the service and completed to date.
- Windows were open throughout the service allowing fresh air to circulate.
- Warm water, liquid hand soap and dispensed handtowels were available to promote adequate hand hygiene.
- Handwashing was completed at regular intervals throughout the day as required for example children's hands were washed before mealtimes.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were available throughout the service for disposal of contaminated items.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed throughout the inspection.
- Fire evacuation plans were displayed throughout the service.
- Staff were knowledgeable of the action to be taken in the event of a fire emergency.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1) Children are greeted at the door on arrival to the service and a record of attendance is maintained within each care room. This record accurately reflected the children's attendance on the day of inspection.

(3)(a) Visitors to the service were greeted at the door by staff members and permitted access. A video bell is in place to allow staff to view visitors before opening the door. This prevented unauthorised persons accessing the service without the knowledge or approval of staff.

(b) A visitor logbook is maintained within the service. This collects all the necessary information about the visitor and the purpose of their visit.

(4) A record of visitors dating back one year was maintained by the service and available for review.