

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY020		
Name of Service:	Baron's Playschool		
Address of Service:	82a Northway Estate, Finglas, Dublin 11, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D11 R840		
Name of Registered Provider:	Benoni Robu		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date(s) of Inspection:	20/09/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	34	PM 11
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:	Clíondhna Kerrigan and Stella Murray		
Title:	Early Years Inspector and Inspection Registration Manager		

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

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 in a North Dublin residential area consisting of a 2 storey purposely adapted residential unit. Baron's Playschool operates from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday. The service consists of four care rooms, an office, kitchen, and sanitary facilities. Rooms 3 & 4 are located on the ground floor while Rooms 1 & 2 are located on the first floor. An enclosed outdoor area is available to the rear of the premises

Staffing

The service employs a total of 8 staff. To include the registered provider and 7 care staff. All of whom were present on the day of inspection. The registered provider works in an administrative capacity but can provide support to the care rooms when required.

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, Premises and Facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations as follows:

Regulation 9- Management and Recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4).

Regulation 11- Staffing Levels (1), (2), (8)(a)

Regulation 16 -Record in relation to pre-school service (1)(a)(b)(c)(f)(h)(i)(j)(k) (3).

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a).

Regulation 21- Equipment and materials

Regulation 23 -Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.

Regulation 28 -Insurance.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service, Regulation 19 Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a). Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child as a result, the scope of the inspection included Room 1, Room 2 and Room 4.

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.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

The files of all 8 staff members including the registered provider were reviewed.

(2) (a) The registered provider had 6 written and validated references from past employers for 5 members of staff.

(b) The registered provider had 10 written and validated references from reputable sources for 7 members of staff.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 8 staff members. The service has also adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for 5 staff members who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The 8 staff who work 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.

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 preschool service other than a child minding service or a sessional preschool service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) There were adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service when Inspectors arrived unannounced at 09:59.

(2) The correct adult to child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection.

There were 6 staff members working directly with 32 children, The person in charge was available to provide support in the care rooms as required.

- Room 1 : 2 adults to 11 children aged between 3 to 5 years.
- Room 2: 1 adult to 10 children aged between 3 to 5 years
- Room 3 : 1 adult to 7 children aged 3 to 4 years
- Room 4: 2 adults to 6 children aged between 19 months and 3 years.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

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:

(a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor.

(b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services.

(c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service.

(f) the opening hours and fees;

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis.

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.

(j) details of any medications administered to a preschool child attending the service.

(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)(a) A record was available in writing of the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee.

(b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children was displayed in the hallway of the service.

(c) An up-to-date roster was visible on the wall along with attendance records which held up to date details of the adult: child ratios.

(f) The opening hours and fees were visible on the wall in the hallway.

(h) A record in writing was available in each room detailing the daily attendance of each preschool child.

(i) A daily staff roster was visible on the wall in the hallway. It was up to date and reflected the relevant information for the daily running of the service.

(j) A sample of 2 medication administration records were reviewed and found to be fully completed

(k) A sample of 4 Accident and Incident records were reviewed and found to be fully completed.

(3) On the day of inspection all records and documents required for inspection were made available onsite.

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,

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic Needs

- The service provided meals throughout the day, with parents providing snacks.
Meals were provided at regular intervals throughout the day to include breakfast up to 9am, a snack at 11am with lunch at 1pm and an afternoon snack.
A hot lunch of chicken and vegetable curry was observed being freshly prepared by staff. A schedule was visible in the hallway outlining weekly meals which are all freshly prepared onsite.
- The service has a healthy eating policy which supports parents with their choice of snacks. Children were observed eating sandwiches, fruit and yogurt that had been sent in from home for snack time. Water was made freely available to each child to access throughout the day. Drinks were also provided to children at mealtimes.
- Several children were noted to be toilet trained, supervision and support was given as needed in a respectful and dignified manner. Toileting was scheduled and facilitated as required. Some children were noted to be in the process of toilet training – cues were picked up on and support was given to encourage toileting as required.
- Children were observed to move around the care rooms freely and engage in a variety of activities and play experiences, for example in Room 1, 7 children played with plastic construction blocks whilst 4 played with sensory dough and utensils. Then 2 children wished to embark on imaginary play and dress up which was actively supported by staff.
- Children attending all care rooms were facilitated with play in the outdoor play area located off room 4.

Supporting relationships

- A calm relaxed and welcoming atmosphere was noted upon entering the service. Staff supported this through caring and respectful interactions with children, using their first names and being spoken to at eye level when appropriate.
- Mealtimes were noted to be a relaxed and social event with staff chatting with children and encouraging independence with feeding. Children’s special occasions were noted and celebrated within the service, promoting a feeling of belonging.
- Challenging behaviour was managed in a child centred developmentally appropriate manner. For example, one child was noted to be struggling to familiarise themselves with staff and environment, they were reassured, cuddled and spoken to in a soft and calming voice. Staff spoke of the settling in plan and the service/parent interactions to support this in a child led manner.
- Information was recorded as needed and shared with parents at pick up time, promoting parental engagement and service transparency.

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

Rooms sampled were bright and interesting and were well planned to provide a range of developmentally appropriate, creative and enriching experiences for the children.

Rooms were equipped with low level tables and seating allowing children to sit comfortably for meal and playtime.

Play and learning equipment were easily identifiable in clearly labelled low level shelving enabling spontaneous play. Areas of interest included construction area, well-resourced kitchen/home corners, rest areas with well stocked libraries, mark making areas, construction and dress up. Materials to promote fine motor manipulation, arts and crafts and sensory play were readily available.

Each room had an area for rest and relaxation with soft cushions and flooring

The Outdoor space was secured with a high-level wall with clearly defined areas of interest, with a number of materials and equipment to entice imagination, play and gross motor skills

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 is accessed via a doorbell of which a staff member permits access. Parents are permitted to enter the service to pick up children from their assigned rooms.

The outdoor area is located to the rear of the premises and is secured with a high wall.

Daily risk assessments were undertaken within care rooms and in the outdoor area.

Hazardous materials such as medicines and cleaning equipment were stored out of reach from children on high shelving.

Infection Control:

The premises was noted to be well maintained and clean. Written cleaning schedules were available throughout the service to include care rooms and sanitary areas.

Thermostatically controlled hot water, soap and paper towels were readily available for handwashing and drying

Foot pedal bins were in use throughout the service.

Weekly cleaning of toys was discussed with schedules indicating the same.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not observed being given during the inspection. Medication was stored safely away from children.

Staff were able to discuss the procedure for safe administration of medication within the service if medication was prescribed for a child.

Fire Safety:

Monthly fire drills were completed. Fire escape routes and procedures were easily identifiable in each care room, with staff outlining the process efficiently. Staff were able to outline drills and evacuation procedures.

Smoke alarms and emergency lighting was evident throughout the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. At 13:27 the front door to the premises was noted to be unsecured and open as a staff member had just washed the hallway floor, allowing unsafe and unsupervised access to the premises. The door was immediately secured when this was brought to the staff members attention.

Infection Control:

2. Perishable lunch items, of which were brought in by children from home were noted to be stored in each care room in large cooler bags and were not refrigerated. This poses an infection control risk.
3. Handwashing practices were noted to be inconsistent throughout the service.
 - Children hands were not washed following nappies changes observed.
 - Children were noted as not having their hands washed prior to mealtimes which may result in the cross contamination of harmful bacteria resulting in sickness.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The front door to the service is to remain closed at all times. Persons wishing to access the service use a doorbell system with staff answering the door to ensure unauthorised access. New signage has been placed at the doors with staff awareness being raised at staff meeting.

Infection Control:

2. Perishable food items brought in from home are to be refrigerated upon arrival to the premises. Food items will be individually labelled by parents.
3. Handwashing occurs at various points throughout the day on a scheduled bases and as needed. Staff have been re-educated on these processes, with support given daily by the person in charge.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Policy in Place.

Infection Control:

2. Amendment to Policy to include management of perishable food items. Communication with parents has been made via letter and staff have been educated on the management of these food items.

- Staff re education has been undertaken. Handwashing signage has been placed and practices have been discussed at staff meetings. Daily handwashing checks will be undertaken by the person in charge.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of the preschool service being adequately insured. The service is insured for a maximum of 45 children with insurance commencing on the 03rd of April 2024.