

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

Eircode: D11 R840

Name of Registered Provider: Benoni Robu

Service type: Full Day

Date of Inspection: 22/10/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	32	PM	23
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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: L Jameson

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

Baron's Playschool is a privately operated service located in a residential area in Dublin 11 and provides full day, part time and sessional care to children aged 0 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday from 08:00am – 02:00pm. The service also participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme through a morning session from 09:30 – 12:30pm. The service consists of four care rooms, an office, a kitchen, and sanitary accommodation. Rooms 3 & 4 are located on the ground floor while Rooms 1 & 2 are located on the first floor. A fully enclosed outdoor area is available to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service employs nine adults, including the registered provider, the person in charge and seven early years practitioners to work directly with the children, one of whom provides cover in the care rooms during breaks and also works as kitchen staff. The registered provider and person in charge work in a supernumerary capacity, providing support in the care rooms where required.

On the day of inspection, the person in charge and five early years practitioners were present when the inspector arrived unannounced in the service. Another early year's practitioner arrived at approximately 10:00am to begin their shift. The registered provider was not present on the day of the inspection.

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 a safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15(1) Record of a Pre-School Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included Room 3 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 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, 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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was rostered to be present all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on and when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service.
 - (c) The service had a clear management structure, and staff members were aware of their own role and responsibilities.
- (2) The full staff files of two adults who had been employed since the last inspection were reviewed along with the Garda vetting disclosure of one staff member which had expired since the last inspection.
- (a) Two written and verified references were available from past employers.
 - (b) Two written and verified reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the three adults employed in the service. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.

- (3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to two adults before employment commenced.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that the two adults 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.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children on the day of inspection. Five staff members were caring for thirty-two children when the inspector arrived in the service. In the afternoon, four adults cared for twenty-three children.
- (2) The correct adult child ratio was maintained in the service for the duration of the inspection. The person in charge and a relief staff member was available in a supernumerary capacity to provide cover in rooms as needed.

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) A sampling process was used in relation to the children’s records. All of the 10 sampled registration forms were appropriately completed with the required information as specified in sub-sections (a) to (i) in this regulation.

(3)

- (c) The children’s records were available and open for review by the inspectors as authorised persons.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)

(b) The following practices were observed on the day of inspection which supported the health, welfare and development of the children attending:

- Staff members were observed to interact warmly and kindly, using gentle and reassuring tones of voice, to support the children. On the day of inspection, there were new children settling into the service. Staff members confidently discussed the settling in period with the inspector, demonstrating familiarity with the process.
- The children were supported to follow their own interests, explore their environment and given freedom of choice with staff members joining them during play and activities.
- A daily routine was evident on the day of inspection, staff members offered the children support with transitions between activities, mealtimes and nappy changing. Visual prompts were displayed in the care rooms to support this.
- Mealtimes were observed to be a sociable and pleasant event. Staff members sat alongside the children, engaging in meaningful conversations. Children in Room 3 took turns to pass lunch to their peers who were seated at the tables. The children displayed excitement, patience and turn-taking skills. This practice also supports social and cognitive development.
- Staff members were observed to tend to children's individual personal needs promptly, offering discreet supervision for toileting and assisting with hand washing and blowing noses. Nappies were changed at scheduled times throughout the day and more frequently, as required.

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 leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. The inspector was asked to sign in and sign out at their arrival to and departure from the service.
- Cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- Flexes and cords were secured safely out of reach of the children.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.
- Window restrictors were observed to be in use on all windows in the service.
- The staircase had both adult height and child height handrails in place.

Infection Control:

- The sanitary areas were equipped with warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels. Staff members were observed to support children with handwashing at regular intervals throughout the day, before eating and after toileting.
- The service was clean and well maintained, supported by up-to-date cleaning records.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available in the care rooms and sanitary areas to ensure the hygienic disposal of waste. Soiled nappies were disposed of immediately after changes occurred and placed in the external bin.
- The windows in the service were observed to be open to allow fresh air to circulate and reduce malodours.

Administration of Medication:

- Anti febrile medication was observed to be in date, stored in the correct packaging and out of the children's reach. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clear and unobstructed on the day of inspection.

- Staff members confidently discussed the procedure in place in the event of an emergency, demonstrating their familiarity with the process.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for one staff member. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. Grapes present in a child's lunchbox were not quartered or halved, posing a choking risk. It is acknowledged that a staff member immediately removed the grapes and halved them when brought to their attention by the inspector.

Infection Control:

3. Lunches brought from home which contained perishable items, such as yogurts, were not refrigerated, posing a risk of illness. This was a non-compliance on the last inspection, dated 20 September 2024.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A Garda vetting renewal application has been submitted for one adult. The registered provider will renew all staff vetting within the 3-year timeframe outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. A staff meeting was held, and all staff have been reminded to check the children's lunch boxes before snack is served. A reminder has also been sent to parents regarding the need to half or quarter grapes brought from home.

Infection Control:

3. Parents are now required to send any perishable items into the service in sealable bags which are stored in the fridge. Staff are aware of the update in routine.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. No evidence submitted. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.
2. No evidence submitted. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

Infection Control:

3. No evidence submitted. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 23.

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) One staff member who was observed to work directly with the children on the day of inspection held in-date certification for First Aid Response (FAR) training which ensured that a person with FAR training was immediately available to the children attending the service at all times. In addition, six staff members held in-date Paediatric First Aid training.

- (2)
- (a) The first aid box available in the service was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous location on the premises.
 - (b) First aid boxes were available for the children in attendance in the event of an emergency.

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) A record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. The records indicated and staff members reported that fire drills were carried out monthly. The last recorded fire drill took place on 07 October 2025.
 - (b) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate a maintenance check was carried out on the firefighting equipment on 28 April 2025 and the smoke alarms on 06 March 2025.
- (2)
- (c) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All fire records requested by the inspection team were available for review.
- (4) The evacuation procedure was conspicuously displayed on the premises which contained details in relation to the procedure to be conducted in the event of a fire or emergency in the service.