

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DY022

Name of Service: Beaumont Pre-School Community Playgroup

Address of Service: St. Fiachra's School, Montrose Park, Beaumont, Dublin 5.

Eircode: D05 W248

Name of Registered Provider: Margaret Hennessy

Service type: Sessional

Date of Inspection: 21/05/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	40	PM	13
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 7th Floor Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	L.A Webster
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

Beaumont Pre-school Community Playgroup is a sessional pre-school service that is located in Dublin 5. The service has been in operation since 1993 and offers sessional care to children aged 2-6 years. The service also participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. There are two care rooms within the service namely Room 1 and Room 2. In each room, there are sanitary facilities and an enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the service. Between Room 1 and Room 2, there is an office, staff room and adult sanitary area. The service operates session one in the morning from 8:35-11:35am within both care rooms and in the afternoon, the session runs from 11:50-14:50pm.

Staffing

The registered provider employs six staff and also works within the service themselves. Six staff were working directly with the children, and the registered provider was available to cover if 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 the area of governance health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

- Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment
- Regulation 11 Staffing Levels
- Regulation 15 Record of a Pre-school Child
- Regulation 19 1(a)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child
- Regulation 25 First Aid
- Regulation 26 Fire Safety
- Regulation 28 Insurance

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, 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.

(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 required.

(b) The designated person in charge and the deputy were present when the inspector arrived unannounced and remained at the service throughout the inspection.

(c) There was a clear management structure in place, and this was evidenced through paperwork on file, and in discussion with management and staff.

(2) The files of all seven staff members working at the service were reviewed.

(a) Eight written and verified references were available from a past employer

(b) Six written and verified references were available from a source other than a past employer.

- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all seven staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff employed.
- (d) Police vetting was available in relation to two staff members who have resided in a country other than Ireland for a period longer than six months.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that all seven staff who worked directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification that is deemed of equivalence by the minister.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) There were 40 pre-school children being cared for by six staff members on the day of inspection. One staff member was not assigned to a room and provided cover for breaks as needed.
- (3) Ratios were maintained during the inspection, and this was evidenced by the following observations.
- Room One had 21 children aged 3-5 years and were being cared for by three staff members.
 - Room Two had 19 children aged 3-5 years and were being cared for by three 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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of twelve children’s records were reviewed as part of the inspection. All records contained the required information as required under (a)-(i) above.

(3) (c) All child records were available for inspection.

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

(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

19 (1)(a)(b)

Basic needs:

- On the day of inspection, children were observed to move freely around the rooms and engage in various types of play activities.
- At 10:50 am, children lined up to retrieve their lunches from the fridge. Lunches are stored in the fridge to prevent any food spoiling.
- Each child had their own designed placemat to use while eating their lunch.
- Children had access to their own individually labelled water bottles.

Supporting Relationships:

- Staff were observed to be kind, caring and respectful with their interactions towards the children, which maintained the happy and relaxed atmosphere of the room.
- Staff consistently communicated with the children through low and calm tones, offering direction to the children when needed. Additionally, staff ensured that comfort was provided to children when needed through gentle touch, a hug or sitting with the children.
- Staff were observed to engage children in conversation about their evening activities promoting a sense of belonging and community. Throughout snack time, it was evident that the children were very content and relaxed with the staff. The staff sat with the children and engaged in various conversations and asking open ended questions that demonstrated a strong interest in the children's lives
- Staff promoted play and learning through modes of music and dance rehearsals to prepare for upcoming graduations.

- During outdoor play, staff played various games with the children including bubble play and built a small obstacle course to promote the children's physical movements.

Physical and Material Environment:

- Both care rooms were spacious and decorated with various forms of arts and crafts. There was a clearly designed family wall and birthday wall with pictures of the children's families displayed.
- Play areas were clearly designated including a cosy corner to relax, kitchen area, construction area and art and craft area.
- Toys were documented as developmentally age appropriate for the children and in good condition.
- Children were observed to play independently with the materials and sought support from staff when needed.
- Outdoor equipment was in good condition and provided fun learning experiences for the children.

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 door to the service was secure upon the inspector's arrival. The person in charge attended the door to allow entry.
- A second internal door leading into room 1 was securely locked throughout the inspection process, this prevented any children leaving the service unsupervised and any unauthorised entry.
- Windows within the rooms were secure and had the appropriate, hand pulled blinds.
- Radiator covers were secured to the wall to eliminate any scald risk from radiators or pinch hazards from the covers.
- There were no visible signs of any trailing flexes or wires within the rooms.
- All cleaning equipment was stored safely, locked away and out of reach of any children.
- The room temperatures were maintained at 19.2°C, ensuring adequate airflow and a comfortable environment for children to engage in play and learning activities.
- The outdoor area was clean and secure for children to play.
- Toys were in good condition with no visible cracks, tears or potential pinch risks.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper handtowels secured to the wall were available to the children throughout the inspection.
- Children's toilets were clean, hygienic and a visible cleaning checklist was available and in date to ensure cleanliness of the bathrooms.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available to ensure appropriate disposal of paper towels and waste.
- From observation, it was documented that the children were supported to engage in good handwashing practices at various times including at 10:38 am when transitioning in from garden time for a graduation rehearsal and again at 10:50 am as some of the routine included children sitting or moving on the floor.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of inspection; written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. Through discussion, staff were familiar with the practices required for the administration of medication to a child attending the service. In addition to this, staff were aware of the procedures to take in relation to potential anaphylaxis and the administering of treatment if the event occurred.

Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills had been carried out and the registered provider and staff were familiar with the fire safety evacuation procedures of the service
- Fire exits were unobstructed

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) The registered provider was trained in First Aid Response (FAR), expiry date of May 2026 and was immediately available to the children attending the service. Additionally, the registered provider ensured that two staff held up to date FAR certification and were immediately available to the children as needed.

- (2) (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, and unobstructed if needed to access quickly within room 1 and room 2.
- (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available at all times to the children attending the service.

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.*
- (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 records available demonstrated that fire drills are held monthly within the service and the two care rooms conducted a fire drill on the 7 May 2025.
- (b) A record was available detailing the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm systems in the premises.
- Records demonstrate that the firefighting equipment had been serviced annually, with the last service taking place on the 29 August 2024.
 - Records demonstrate that the smoke alarms have been serviced on a quarterly bases with the last service taking place on the 2 April 2025.
- (4) A visual notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was consistently displayed around the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the pre-school service was adequately insured, with an expiry date of March 2026