

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY356
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Name of Service:	Realt Beag
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Address of Service:	Ballyfermot STAR, 7 Drumfinn Park, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D10 FP66
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ailbhe Smyth
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	13/05/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM	24
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Carysfort Avenue, Carysfort House, Blackrock, Co Dublin
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Inspection undertaken by:	L. Magee
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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

Realt Beag Ballyfermot S.T.A.R. Ltd is a community based early years service which was established in 2007. The service provides full day for children aged between three months to six years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 8:45am - 5.15pm. It is a two-storey purpose-built premises with a separate entrance at the rear of the Ballyfermot STAR facility. There are three care rooms, Baby room, Toddler room and Preschool room. There are two enclosed outdoor play areas which are located on the ground and first floor levels.

Staffing

There were 9 adults present on the day of inspection and of these 8 were working directly with the children. Eight of these adults including the designated person in charge were working directly with the children.

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.

This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required:

The inspection plan was to assess compliance under the following regulations:

- Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

- Regulation 11 Staffing levels
- Regulation 15 Record of a preschool child
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

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

(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

(2). The files of all 11 staff were reviewed as part of the inspection process and for the purpose of assessing compliance with this regulation.

These 11 files were reviewed on the day of the inspection as evidenced below;

- (a) Fifteen validated references were available from past employers.
- (b) Five validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) All adults working directly with children had a vetting disclosure dated within the previous 3 years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for all adults who had lived outside the state for longer than six consecutive months.

(4) Eleven adults employed to work directly with pre-school children had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)&(b) Two references were not available from a past employer or a source other than a past employer for one member of staff.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (a) & (b)

Two verified references were submitted for this staff member. One of these references was not suitable and could not be accepted.

The service will ensure going forward all references are verified and checked before staff members commence work in the setting.

Supporting documentation submitted

Two verified references were submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

One reference was not suitable and could not be accepted. The service is unable to obtain a further reference for this adult due to leave. This regulation remains non-compliant.

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) An adequate number of adults were working with the children. There were 7 adults working with 24 children in the morning and 6 adults with 24 children in the afternoon.

(2) At all times the minimum required ratio of adults to children was maintained

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

Records were randomly selected and reviewed for ten children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.
- (f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.
- (g) The name, address and telephone number of each child's general practitioner (GP) was recorded.
- (h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.

Non-Compliance Information

(i) There was no written parental consent for medical treatment for two children in the event of an emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Written parental consent for medical treatment for two children was sought.

All children's records have been checked to ensure all appropriate signatures are in place. Management have agreed that both managers will check the children's registration forms when families are starting in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

No documentation was submitted.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance has been addressed by the service. This regulation has been met.

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:

External gates and doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. Heavy equipment was secured to prevent tipping and injury. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. Toys and play equipment observed in use by children on the day of inspection were safe and in working order.

Infection Control:

The premises were observed to be maintained in a clean condition. Completed cleaning schedules were in place demonstrating the daily and weekly procedures taken by the service. Steps were taken to prevent the spread of infection through the use of good hygiene practices such as the supervision of children's hand washing and respiratory hygiene. The sanitary facility was equipped with warm water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

The fire door in the main hall was propped open with a chair on the day of inspection. Fire doors should be closed at all times in order to prevent fire and harmful fumes spreading to other areas of the building.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The service has placed a sign on the door informing staff and families who enter the setting that the main middle door is a fire door and should remain closed at all times. The service has spoken to staff to make sure that during drop offs in the morning and collections in the evening, a member of staff (either practitioner or Housekeeper) will be stationed near the door to ensure it is kept closed.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photograph of new signage was submitted.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.